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Mayor James becomes NJ Senator

By Jean H. Pierre

NEWARK—After weeks of rumors from many in the political circle, Mayor Sharpe James was officially sworn in on June 21 as State Senator for the 29th District (Newark) and Hillside.

James was appointed by the Democratic Committee of the 29th District to fill the spot after the death of long-time Sen. Wynona Lipman last month. During his acceptance speech in Trenton, James said he would continue where Mrs. Lipman left off.

As the 29th District Senator, I will continue to fight for the issues that Dr. Lipman so valiantly pursued," said James, who spent sixteen years as a legislator with the Newark Municipal Council. "I will work to ensure that the areas of Newark and Hillside receive their share of funding for schools and cities, which will better New Jersey."

James had vied for the position including Assemblyman William Payne, Newark Councilman Donald Tucker, former Newark Councilwoman Mildred Crump and Assemblyman Willie Brown, who will now become James' Chief of Staff. But the committee selected James for his influence and experience as a former legislator.

"I can't think of anybody who'd be more capable than him," said Pam Goldstein, who serves as the mayor's communications manager.

"Think of what he can bring back with the knowledge that he has and the people that he knows. We're all pretty excited here."

Some have criticized James for holding two high profile positions, which would make him the highest paid official in the state.

For that James proposed legislation - entitled "Bill 2001" - that would restrict elected officials in the state's four largest cities (Newark, Elizabeth, Jersey City and Paterson) from serving local and state office during the same period. If it passes in November, James said he would leave his mayoral duties and become a full-time senator.

"I doubt that the senate would accept a proposal like that," said Kelly Jenkins, a social worker and Newark resident who voted for James, who's on his fourth-term as mayor.

"Lots of officials have done both and managed fine. This will be in the senate for a while until someone steps to the plate and pushes it."

There have been sixty-four mayors to hold both the mayoral and senate seats in their districts.

Currently, there are three that includes North Bergen Mayor Nicholas Sacco, Surf City Mayor Leonard Conners Jr. and Bayonne Mayor Joseph Dorris. James said he's ready for the critics.

"I have been vilified and criticized," said James. "I alone have been called greedy, selfish and a double dipper. And yet, I am not the first, nor will I be the last mayor to serve in the state legislature as a dual office holder."

"\$2,000 can get you \$16,000" — Or, you can lose it all

By Carl Chase and Lucy Sanchez

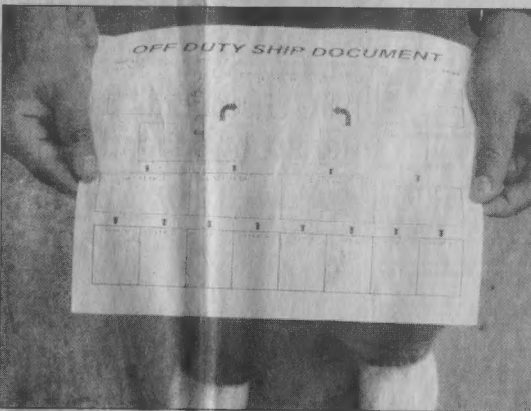
In the middle of the frenzied dreaming, scheming and recruiting that came with the present popularity of the so-called "pyramids" and similar clubs are people who remember when communities pooling their resources weren't always lumped in with unscrupulous get-rich-quick schemes.

The most prominent new social club appeared in late 1998 or early this year, paying out an 800 percent return for those who successfully brought in a group of investors, each of whom pay anywhere from \$275 to \$5,000 or more for the opportunity.

In Amigos Associates Social Club Inc., some 10 people "cash out" - collecting \$16,000 - three times per week. But first, members join a "ship" of 15 people, including a team captain, two superstars, four all-stars and - eventually, they hope - eight stars.

When eight stars are ready with cash, the ship gets paid \$2,000 each to the captain, who retires from the board. The board

See PYRAMID page A3



Pictured above is a copy of a pyramid getting board from Anovatu.

Association of black journalists award NJ teens



Joy Smith, Sharlene Alexander and Margaret Williams proudly hold their scholarship certificates from the GSABJ annual awards ceremony.

By Carl Chase

IRVINGTON — An aspiring journalist from Irvington was among this year's scholarship winners who brought home \$1,000 scholarships given by the Garden State Association of Black Journalists, president Chantia L. Jackson announced.

"This is like a door opening," said 17-year-old L. Smith, "because of the lack of people of color in the journalism field. It lets me know someone cares about getting people in the field."

Smith will work as a paid, full-time intern at City News this summer and attend Syracuse University beginning in the fall.

She recently graduated from Blair Academy, a private boarding school near Dover.

The other winners are Sharlene Alexander of Monmouth and Margaret Williams of East Orange.

Smith, a writer for her school newspaper, "The Breeze," the student-run literary magazine "Between The Lines" and a newspaper by her African-American studies class called "Moving Our Center" and contributor to the yearbook, wrote articles about the challenge of multiculturalism in American society.

Smith, who played sports throughout high school including

field hockey, track and basketball, hopes to go into broadcasting, especially sports.

"I like to write but I really enjoy interacting with people." If that doesn't click for her, she'll work for a sports magazine, she said.

She has appeared in "Who's Who Among American High School Students," won the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children Award in recognition of her academic ability along with several other academic awards.

Her mother, English teacher Elizabeth Smith, a former Irvington Herald reporter and essay writer, is among her role models.

So are her yearbook advisor Candice Low, and black studies teacher Tiffany Simpkins, who recommended her for the award.

Sharlene Alexander of Manalapan High School plans to attend Hampton University as a broadcast major.

Alexander, 18, said, "This award reveals that if I work hard I can achieve any goal I put my mind to. You can do it if you focus on what you want to do and don't let other people bring you down."

"I really enjoy writing," she said. "It's a lot of fun and gives me an opportunity to express my ideas."

See JOURNALIST page A8

NAACP celebrates 90th anniversary

BALTIMORE, MD — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will hold its 90th Annual Convention July 10 - 15, in New York City at the New York Hilton & Towers and Sheraton Hotel. This year's theme, "NAACP: 90 Years of Making Democracy Work," commemorates the association's historic founding in 1909 in New York, New York. It is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume said, "It's a momentous occasion for those of us who are committed to justice and equality for people of color. Over the past 90 years, the NAACP has played a significant role in making America work for all of its citizens."

"The NAACP continues to confront the myriad of challenges this nation faces in the political, economic, education and social arena. We remain as dedicated today to expanding opportunity and fairness for African Americans as we were in the early 1900s," said NAACP Chairman Julian Bond.

An estimated 14,000 delegates and visitors, representing the NAACP's 2,300 branches are expected to attend the six-day convention. It is the first annual convention held in New York since 1987. Invited speakers include President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, Rep. J.C. Watts (R-OK) and James Clyburn, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Subjects such as economic empowerment, "the digital divide" and school violence will be discussed in workshops and clinics. There will be Community Industry Show, Minority Vendor Expo and Job Fair. Other highlights include presentation of the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest award for achievement. The National Afro-American, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), a showcase for gifted and talented youth, and "Before Time Runs Out," a poignant play about breast cancer.

Mfume said, "It is great for the NAACP to return to the state of its founding just as we prepare to protect our civil rights agenda into the next century."

NY/NJ Expo creates win win



TRANECK—Harriet R. Michel, president of the National Minority Supplier Development Council and former CEO of the New York Urban League, addresses the luncheon at the 1999 Marketing & Business Expo on June 9. "I decide right now if you're going to be a mom & pop or be a major entrepreneur, if you don't know... time will pass you right by," she told the audience of business professionals. If minority firms don't gear up quickly, she said, "Our businesses won't be viable two to three years from now." At right is City News and MSB Publisher Dr. Henry Johnson. Full story in the New Minority Business Journal.

Tucker's Newark revaluation bill approved by Assembly

TRENTON—The Assembly recently approved legislation authorizing a five-year phase in of a massive property revaluation in the City of Newark.

The measure (S-1324-3569), sponsored by Assemblyman Donald Tucker, would phase in the revaluation progressively over a five-year period in one ward at a time. The bill also would set a precedent to help other communities avoid "property tax shock" in cases where revaluations have been delayed for multiple decades.

Newark has not implemented a municipal revaluation since 1962 due to a variety of reasons, including a shrinking industrial base, a disproportionate ratio of tax-exempt properties, and a lack of uniform data processing standards.

"Revaluation of residential properties will create significant tax increases for homeowners within the city of Newark without providing an increase in municipal services," said Tucker (D-Essen). "This bill will prevent immediate tax revaluation which will be detrimental to a city that is experiencing economic and social revitalization."

During the last property valuation in Newark, the average assessed value of residential homes was under \$25,000. While this assessed value is still carried on the books in 1999, the fair market value of many of these properties far exceed that amount.

Tucker said Newark has a unique property tax problem worthy of special attention by the Legislature. He noted that 23 percent of the property in Newark is tax exempt, which results in 23 percent of the city's own residents shouldering the local tax burden.

A revaluation only impacts the 23 percent who pay property taxes," said Tucker. "Since this fraction of property owners shoulder such a disproportionate share of the local tax burden, they are deserving of extraordinary treatment by the Legislature."

The revaluation issue has profound implications for more than just city residents. Newark is a "regional city" that provides services to the entire New Jersey metropolitan area, including facilities for air, rail and seaport transportation; the largest higher education complex in the state; major banking and insurance hubs; the county seat. Its population swells three fold between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on each work day.

Tucker said billions of dollars worth of property within the city serves the entire region and state free of local taxation, while Newark residents and business must endure with taxes, traffic, pollution and the burden of providing services to all the suburban commuters and visitors.

"The truth is that Newark is truly unique, bearing a regional burden that entitles the city for a special solution to its revaluation problem," said Tucker.

The city of Newark's property tax base is paid for by three classes of property: commercial, industrial and residential. Commercial and industrial property presently pay 58.8 percent of the property tax levy, while the remaining 41.2 percent is paid by residential property and vacant land.

Preliminary figures based on data from the Essex County Board of Tax Appeals indicate that after revaluation there will be a shift of the tax burden from commercial and industrial property to residential property.

It is anticipated that the commercial and industrial share of the property tax levy will decrease to 46.7 percent and the residential share will increase to 53.3 percent of the total property tax levy.

"An immediate confiscatory tax increase for homeowners on fixed income will create an expansion of municipal owned property and will undermine the objective of fair and equitable taxation," said Tucker.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

EAST RUTHERFORD — The annual American Fair takes place at the Giant Stadium Parking Lot. Call (201) 933-0189 for time and information.

UNICROFT — The Monmouth County Park System offers a course in stonemasonry and screen printing at the Thompson Park Craft Center. 1:30 p.m. (732) 342-4000.

NEWARK — The Newark Public Library's Westside Branch salutes gospel music Choral Group. 1:30 p.m. (973) 733-7798.

MONTCLAIR — Montclair State University's Summer Camp for Academically Gifted youth offers a state of camp programs for students in grades four to ten. Call (973) 655-4333 for time and information.

SUMMIT — The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs hosts an exhibit and sale of visual material at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts. Call (908) 592-2550 for time and information.

NEW YORK — The South Street Seaport Museum hosts a sandwich and soda sale event. Call (212) 745- for time and information.

NEW YORK — The Museum of the City of New York presents a film retrospective on the life of actor-activist Paul Robeson. Call (212) 534-1672 for time and information.

HOLMDEL — The PNC Bank Arts Center presents the legendary Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers. Call (732) 335-0400 for information.

THURSDAY, JULY 1

PLAINFIELD — The Library Volunteers of America, Inc. offers a workshop on English as a Second Language (ESL). Plainfield Public Library. 6 p.m. (908) 755-7998.

FRIDAY, JULY 2

NEWARK — The Garden State Twins Association presents "Twins Fest '99" in celebration of twins and their families throughout the Fourth of July weekend. Military Park. Call (973) 642-2889 for time and information.

FREEHOLD — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the American Hotel. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

BLOOMFIELD — Chase Manhattan and AT&T presents the "Celestial Sounds" music for the millennium performed by The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. The concert takes place at Brookdale Park as part of Essex County Park System's Summer Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. (973) 288-3500.

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. — The Nassau County Department of Recreation and Parks host "African American Night" a evening of music and dance for the African American community at Eisenhower Park. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theater. Call (516) 572-0200.

NEWARK — The City of Newark's Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs presents "Let's Celebrate Newark" Fourth of July Celebration. Family and community events will take place at several sites in Newark all weekend. Call (973) 733-6454 for information.

WILDWOOD CREST — The 12th Annual Gazebo By The Sea Craft Show. The event features the best in jewelry, leather goods and silk arrangements. It takes place at Crest Gazebo. Call (908) 522-1669 for information and time.

FLEMINGTON — The Fourth of July Summer Sidewalk Sale takes place at Liberty Village Factory Outlets. Call (908) 782-8550 for time and information.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

SECAUCUS — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Crown Plaza. 9 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

CAPE MAY — The Cape May Annual Crafts and Art Show takes place at Historic Cold Springs Village. Call (908) 898-2300 for time and information.

NEWARK — The St. Rose of Lima Church presents its weekly flea market with various bazaar specials. 9 a.m. (973) 482-0682.

SUNDAY, JULY 4

PLAINFIELD — The Mt. Campbell & John Marshall First Annual Road Mile takes place at the 75th Annual Central Jersey Fourth of July Parade. The event continues on July 5th. Call (908) 754-3098 for time and information.

NEW YORK — Veggie Singles, Inc. hosts a Fourth of July Fireworks Party. 7 p.m. (718) 437-0190.

SHORT HILLS — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Hilton. 8 p.m. (732) 462-2406.

UNION — The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs presents the Union County Blues Festival at Cedar Park. Call (908) 568-2550 for time and information.

BRIDGEWATER — The Bridgewater Independence Day Family Festival takes place at North Branch Park. Call (908) 722-1200.

JERSEY CITY — The annual fireworks display celebrating Independence Day takes place at Liberty State Park. Call (201) 547-5522.

Reginald L. Johnson receives 1999 Post Day Award



CRANFORD — Union County College officials congratulate Reginald L. Johnson, (center) who was the recipient of the 1999 Post Day Award for academic excellence and outstanding service to the college. Pictured left to right are: Mrs. Joan Corbett, Chair of the Board of Governors, Dr. Sondra Fishinger, Chair of the Faculty, Johnson, Dr. Thomas H. Brown, President of Union County College, and Dr. Victor M. Richei, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

NJCU students master the art of education



JERSEY CITY — At its recent graduate commencement, New Jersey City University awarded 275 master's degrees. Shirley Silver (second from left) of Bayonne, who received a master's of arts degree in special education and responded for the graduates, and Carolann Steere (right) of Parsippany, budget manager in the NJCU Controller's Office who received a master's of arts degree in counseling, were congratulatory (left) Dr. Yiping Wan, dean of the NJCU College of Education; Dr. Sandra Bloomberg, dean of the NJCU College of Professional Studies; and Dr. Larry Carter, vice president for Academic Affairs.

William Paterson University hosts National History Day



WAYNE — Students in grade six through 12 from New Jersey public and private schools recently participated in this year's New Jersey National History Day competition at William Paterson University. The competition fosters an interest in history by inviting students to research topics related to a different theme each year. This year's theme, "Science, Technology, Invention in History: Impact, Influence, Change," allowed students to investigate a broad range of topics.

Williams, Newark's employee of the month



NEWARK — Vernell Williams has worked for the City of Newark's Nutrition Project for the Elderly since 1974, and became its director in 1982. The program is run by the Dept. of Health and Human Services. Vernell has gained an excellent reputation for her professional and compassionate services to Newark's senior citizens. She was nominated as Employee of the Month for "going beyond her professional duties, being a beautiful lady who epitomizes the very best of public service," according to her supervisor, Phil Orlando.

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National Briefs

THREE CITIES SITED TO RECEIVE HELP TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS

(NNPA) — According to Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Donna E. Shalala, Detroit, Philadelphia and Miami will be the first of 11 U.S. metropolitan cities to receive special technical assistance from federal Crisis Response Teams for eight to 10 weeks to help combat the spread of HIV/AIDS among racial and ethnic minority populations.

Shalala said HHS targeted cities with the largest minority populations affected by HIV/AIDS, among at least 500,000 persons and at least 1,500 African American or Hispanic persons living with HIV/AIDS. Other cities scheduled to receive help from the Crisis Response Teams are Atlanta, Ga.; Baltimore, Md.; Chicago, Ill.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Washington, D.C.; Newark, N.J.; New Haven/Connecticut/Danbury/Waterbury, Conn.; and West Palm Beach/Boca Raton, Fla.

LESBIANS AND GAYS APPLY FOR NYPD

(NNPA) — The Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center in conjunction with the Gay Officers Action League (GOAL), recently mailed over 55,000 New York Police Department applications to Center members and supporters in an effort to diversify the NYPD. The recruitment campaign is aimed at attracting more lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender recruits.

The deadline to submit applications is July 27. A multiple-choice test is scheduled for Saturday, September 25. The application fee is \$35. For further information, contact The Center at One Little West 12th Street, New York, NY 10014, 212-620-7310.

PANEL INVESTIGATES UN ACTIONS IN RWANDAN GENOCIDE

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) — Five years after the Rwandan genocide, a three-member panel began work on June 21 to answer the question that has perplexed United Nations (UN) officials: Did the world body do enough to prevent the massacres of as many as one million people? Former Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, leader of the three-member team that includes delegates from South Korea and Nigeria, said, "We will have full access to all materials. We hope draw conclusions about why this could happen."

Several nations, including France and Belgium, have conducted their own inquiries about why this could happen.

The panel — which also includes Nigerian Gen. Pius Kupoili — is scheduled to report to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan by the end of the year.

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As at convention of the millennium

(NNPA) — The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) celebrated its last convention of the millennium by returning to the city where the Black Press was born — New York.

In addition to making a pilgrimage to the site of the country's first Black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, participants heard from some of the country's top corporate, government and community leaders during the four-day event, June 15-20.

Among those who spoke were New York leaders including: Congressman Charles B. Rangel; Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields; Percy Sutton, chair of African Telecommunications, Ltd.; General Motors Vice President of Public Policy and Diversity Initiatives Roderick D. Gilliam; promoter, Don King and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

The busy schedule of events, which included the election of a new president, John J. Oliver, Jr., president and CEO of the Afro-American newspapers, kicked off June 16 with a press conference. Recommending the NNPA to fighting the rights of Blacks in America and all over the globe, outgoing president Dorothy R. Leavel said, "We are needed just as much today as we were when

John Russwurm and Sam Cornish started the Freedom's Journal right here in New York."

Vice President Al Gore surprised publishers with an early morning visit on June 17. "As the nation's voice of Black America's hopes and dreams, the Black Press has played a historic and critically important role in leading the struggle of African Americans for freedom, justice and equality," he told attendees. "I look forward to an active partnership with NNPA in our common efforts to make America, in reality, the land of freedom."

Later, in a morning breakfast speech the Rev. Al Sharpton reminded publishers that their mission in the 21st century is the same as it has always been.

The first reason we need Black newspapers in the 21st century is the reason we needed them when they began in the 19th century. The fact of the matter is that Black newspapers were born out of a need for Black people to express their views and become part of the information flow that they were excluded from in the mainstream media. It is that, that justifies our continued existence. When we become less than that is, when we become unnecessary."



Vice President Al Gore speaks to NNPA gathers at last weeks convention.

Minority broadcast media: 2.0 percent ownership

NEW YORK — Before New York City businessman, politician and activist Percy Sutton secured the financing to purchase WLIB (1190 AM), one of the nation's most influential radio stations, he was turned down by 52 banks.

Can you imagine a New York City without WLIB, which is credited with keeping the African American community informed and helping David Perkins become the city's first black mayor?

Since the Telecommunications Act was passed in 1996, it has become even more difficult for African Americans and other people of color to purchase or maintain a radio or television station.

Today, for example, a television station in New York would cost at least \$500 million, while a mid-level FM radio station would cost at least \$200 million. As a result, the numbers of minority owners have dwindled. Only 2.9 percent of all broadcast stations are owned by people of color. Most of these stations are in small markets and 2/3 are AM stations.

Before 1996, the top 50 radio firms owned approximately 800 stations. As of last week, according to Inside Radio's "Who Owns What" the top 20 firms owned 924 stations, and the top 10 firms owned 1,719 stations.

"Media ownership since the Telecommunications Act of 1996 has become much more like a monopoly," said Rev. Jackson during the opening of the broadcast conference at New York's Plaza Hotel on Thursday. "Too few people

own too much media. That's undemocratic. It has had the unintended consequence of racial polarization of ownership. Democracy must inform media ownership."

Rev. Jackson said that the lack of diversity in the media is a major reason why there is a tale of two countries — the war in Kosovo versus the war in Sierra Leone.

"Over the last few days, we have seen the awesome, gruesome pictures of people coming out of Kosovo," Rev. Jackson said. "Our hearts bleed and we weep and reached out. We see them crossing the borders everyday and our hearts bleed. And now we see them going back home and our hearts rejoice. But what we have not seen during the same period is Sierra Leone, where more people have been expelled, and more than 700,000 more people have been killed, and no one has gone to their defense, and there is no commitment to reconstruction. If Americans could see the flight of those in Sierra Leone as they are able to see the flight of those in Kosovo, we would reach out, because we have two eyes and our capacity to feel is great. But we have not had access. We need access to a diverse body of interest and feeling to make this a more perfect union. And in order to keep it there, we need access to media."

During the conference, entitled "Minority Broadcasting Future: Restoring the economic Backbone of Diversity," experts and participants discussed several ways to increase ownership.

Liberty Bell site for Abu-Jamal vigil

NEW YORK — "Stop the Execution/Grant a New Trial" will be the call Saturday, July 3 in Philadelphia as scores of people stage a dramatic, nonviolent civil disobedience action at the historic Liberty Bell. This action and its companion support will call for justice in the case of award-winning journalist and death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal and will take place 17 years to the day after the former Black Panther partner was unjustly sentenced to death. This activity has brought together supporters of many movements for social change nationwide, including renowned labor leader, religious figures, entertainers and academics.

"Civil disobedience is as American as apple pie," said Herman Ferguson, co-chair of the New York-based Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition. "From the Boston Tea Party to the labor movement, from the Civil Rights sit-ins, anti-war and anti-nuclear activism, right up to the recent police brutality protests, civil disobedience has always shown the people's willingness to prevail against injustice," the educator added.

In October, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court denied Abu-Jamal's bid for a new trial, upholding the ruling of Judge Sabe, the original trial judge. Abu-Jamal, an author and activist, was convicted in 1982 of the shooting death of a Philadelphia police officer in a trial tainted by the

flagrant bias of Judge Sabe, by the deliberate exclusion of 11 black potential jurors and by a court-appointed lawyer who admittedly was inexperienced in criminal law, critics say.

Witnesses came forward during the 1995 post conviction relief appeal hearings, saying they were coerced by police to lie, suppress or change their initial accounts of the December 9, 1981 incident.

Amid the gravity of Abu-Jamal's situation, co-chair Ferguson says July 3 is only the beginning of massive civil disobedience actions including the "4 at this point," said, "despite all efforts by the legal team, the system has denied Mumia his due-process rights. Now, we have to take this matter to the streets for the Court of the People to judge."

The July 3 civil disobedience at the Liberty Bell will be supported by a simultaneous legal vigil at Liberty Park. The following day, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal will hold a July 4 vigil with a 9 A.M. International Demonstration at the Liberty Bell calling for justice for Mumia.

Among the endorers of this national July 3 civil disobedience are South African poet laureate Dennis Brutts, educator/writer Professor Manning Marable, Puerto Rican independence leader Rafael Cancel Miranda, musician Ani DiFranco, and veteran peace activist David Dellinger.

Pyramid scheme

Continued from page A1

retires from the board. The board then splits in two, and everyone remaining moves up toward the money seat.

The club's president, Linda Shephard, says the club not only is totally legal, but truly works.

It is not facing any legal charges, noted Shephard, who said people who say it's a scam don't know what they're talking about. "If people came and saw the club operates, then I would respect their opinion."

She has appeared on TV newscasts and has been quoted in newspaper reports which revealed that although the club may have pyramids, that doesn't make it a scam.

Of the 10 complaints to the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs in 1998 and three this year concerning pyramid schemes, not one was linked to either the Amigos, Families and Friends or Friends and Family social clubs, said division spokeswoman Genevieve Wiggins.

Wiggins said policy forbids her to say whether the division or any other agency was investigating.

Gifting boards have been around many years from here to the Far East, say members, who are mostly black, Latino or of other minority groups.

One Perth Amboy resident, a member of the former Families and Friends Social Club, said they are a rare opportunity to recycle money in the black community. The club is closed temporarily during a reorganization.

"It's about trusting one another," said the 39-year-old information specialist, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"I understand the Orientals have been doing it for a long time," said the man, who says he invested \$1000 and lost it when the club closed.

But he said he would rather trust his money to a club than to the lottery. "Logically, if you have a good group of people you can collect probably every other week. I see people who spend \$10 a week on lotto and never win anything."

The U.S. tax code allows personal gifts totaling under \$10,000 per year from any one person to be accepted without reporting them as income, club organizers say.

CITY NEWS CITYLET

We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands. We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.

— Paul Robeson

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Pyramids: Too good to be true

Thousands of people have swarmed to pyramids with hopes of gaining financial freedom. Many have been invited to meetings by family members, friends, city officials, business owners, high school and college students. You witness people holding out their hands as thousands of dollars are handed to them.

This glitzy program has caused a lot of controversy in New Jersey. For it is a thin line of legality which enables social clubs such as Amigos, Friends and Family, Family and Friends and the possible hundreds of other underground bands to operate without interference from the IRS, and other branches of the government. The opportunity to invest \$20,000 to get a \$160,000 in a matter of weeks is incredible and almost too good to be true.

People have traveled far as far as Rhode Island and have had money wired from down south just to invest in this get rich quick process. And many have. Adults of all ages and from all walks of life attend seminars several times a week to empower each other through economic resources. Many have scraped out the last of their bank account money, or have taken their last hundred dollars to invest in a pyramid and have it manifest into eight times that amount. Others simply are interested in remodeling their house or sending their children extra money for college or even starting a new business.

These pyramids house the dreams and freedom that New Jersey residents are not finding from their daily nine to five jobs. The idea has brought together communities of all ages and from all walks of life attend seminars several times a week to empower each other through economic resources. Many have scraped out the last of their bank account money, or have taken their last hundred dollars to invest in a pyramid and have it manifest into eight times that amount. Others simply are interested in remodeling their house or sending their children extra money for college or even starting a new business.

The tricky part comes when you have the IRS investigating those who do not claim their gifts on their income tax forms. Or when you have elected officials or law enforcement officials soliciting funds during work hours. Or when people do not consent and leave those at the bottom of the pyramid out of luck. Although there are several bugs to work out in the pyramid process the ideology of thousands of African Americans and other nationalities bonding together to uplift each other and reinvest in the African-American community is one that is long overdue in this state. So always be cautious of how you invest your money but remember that working together to empower each other can only be a rewarding experience when you leave greed and selfishness out of the picture.

Holocaust, genocide and reparations

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrell

At this current stage of history in the Black Liberation Movement, it is important that key concepts be revisited and re-discussed in our continued efforts to seek clarity on certain ideas that are fundamental to the white supremacy foundation of America.

First, there is the idea and concept of the African Holocaust or Genocide. When we speak of genocide against African people in America, we must also discuss the African Holocaust, because it is this Holocaust that has created the ongoing genocide conditions inflicted against African people in America.

According to most dictionaries holocaust means any widespread destruction. As the African Holocaust researcher Michael Scott explains, "No African was waiting as a slave to be traded to the Europeans. In all regions of Africa, from which African slaves were transported, the African was involved in a brutal war declared by the European aggressor, interested in exploiting the human and natural resources of the richest continent on the earth."

Further, brother Scott reveals, "These Africans who became prisoners of war were placed in detention camps and then transported to the Americas to be enslaved by the beneficiaries of their capture. In Africa began his or her ordeal as a slave. Africans were reduced to slaves by conquest."

It is important for African people to understand and internalize these brief historical facts. Just as the Jewish or any other group of people in the world, captured in a holocaust, and act on it. African people must come to the collective in the world, capture in a holocaust and act on it also.

Finally, brother Scott, instructs us that "Our forefathers were innocent victims of these heinous systems of forced labor. They were never able to comprehend being seized in early morning attacks on their villages by vicious war parties. They were never able to understand why they were being sold by the avicious middlemen. They could never fathom why they were being marched in fetters and chains to the coast where they were transported to European merchandise especially rum and gun powder. They could never appreciate why they were being warehoused in hell-like dungeons in Elmina or Goree."

So now that we have some insight into the idea and concept of the African Holocaust, it should make it easier to understand the meaning and concept of genocide. In the dictionary, "White Genocide, Black Obsolescence, The Question of Black Survival in White America," defines genocide very succinctly. He says genocide is a "deliberate and systematic destruction of black people by white America's socioeconomic and cultural forces."

According to brother Olofenji, America has created an ideology that is the cause of the current African genocide in America. The CIA involvement in cocaine districts in Los Angeles in which the profits were used to finance the CIA-backed Contra army in Nicaragua. This involvement of the CIA caused a proliferation of the distribution and sale of crack cocaine across the African continent. The United States government is trying to downplay the CIA's involvement in this incident by saying that this is an isolated situation and in fact this is not true.

As a result of the African Holocaust and the genocide against African people in America, we must understand the reparations as the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA) is advocating. Reparations simply means repair for injuries, harm and damages. As it has been pointed out, over and over again, we were made chattel and worked for more than 300 years without pay or other compensation for the value of our labor. The white man and white woman stole and criminally appropriated the services and the value of 300 years of labor and then passed it on through inheritance to their children. This process helped create the United States of America and this is the reason for our demands for Reparations.

We must continue to discuss these ideas in our efforts to dismantle the racist and capitalist system and ethnic group in the world protect their interests and African people should and must do so.

So here's the bad news. In the Senate the modest gun control measures were contained in a juvenile crime bill that lacks guaranteed funding for programs to prevent juvenile crime and reveals provisions in existing law that require states to address the disproportionate confinement, through intentional or unintentional discriminatory actions, of minority youth.

White funds for prevention activities were increased during floor debate on the legislation, there is no guarantee in the bill that such funds actually will be provided to all people in this country don't realize that when Congress "authorizes" money for something, that doesn't mean the money is going to be there when the appropriation bill is passed. It's like making out a budget for yourself and then spending something entirely different when

By David Almasi

Affirmative action doesn't work. Mentoring, on the other hand, is proven to be a smashing success. It helps minorities in schools and the workplace without creating the hard feeling bred by quotas.

One of the pleasures of meeting Norman McLean, the highest-ranking college administrator in England. In 1992, Mr. McLean began a mentoring program at the University of East London to help black students create relationships in the professional community, make career decisions and gain work experience. The program was so productive that it became the National Mentoring Consortium (NMC) in 1994, and has since expanded to include Oxford, England, now working with the NMC include banks, law firms, the police and industry.

England does not have the extensive affirmative action programs that exist here in the United States. The Consortium, however, has given blacks not only the foot in the door that African affirmative action does but also an educational and professional experience safety net that affirmative action does not. NMC placement works like an internship, and English companies are eager to recruit from the black college graduates. The police force, which is currently experiencing the same racial problems as its American counterpart, is actively looking for interested and experienced minorities.

NMC has delivered. The first black production manager for Rolling Stone and the youngest black P.A. in England is a NMC participant. He is also expected to be the first graduate of the program to actually become a mentor himself. He is so pleased with what the NMC did for him that he is hoping to establish a similar program in his native Somalia.

Affirmative action in the United States is meant to provide jobs to blacks in formerly closed fields. In selecting a past justice as an administrator, we are not trying to provide black faces in order to fill a quota to unfair both to employers and graduates. Productivity is being put at risk in the self-esteem of those being "helped."

David Almasi freelance columnist and a member of Project 21

Hopeful signs in gun control, but...

By Marian Wright Edelman

I feel a little like a mother whose child has just been upgraded from an "F" to a "D+." I want to applaud and encourage him, but I also want to say, "I know you can do better."

In the wake of the Littleton, Colorado and Conyers, Georgia school shootings, the U.S. Senate finally agreed to take a major step forward in reducing children's access to guns, which have too often been in the hands of children and youth. The bill would require safety locks on new handguns and close the gun show loophole by requiring background checks for children and to purchase guns.

I was shocked, however, that the first gun vote 51-50, was so close. This is not about the Second Amendment to the Constitution, as some gun advocates want to pretend it is. It is about the common sense, and public safety. If an adult brings a gun into the home, that adult has the responsibility to ensure that the gun is not readily accessible to it. Adults who sell guns must be responsible for ensuring those weapons aren't purchased by individuals who are not allowed to purchase guns in any gun store. It is long past time for Congress to protect children, rather than guns.

Children age 18 and older are 10 percent of the population. If 10 percent of that age group's population, but 26 percent of those arrested, 32 percent of those arrested are juveniles, then 26 percent of those placed in long-term juvenile detention institution, and 32 percent of all cases waived to court.

Studies have shown that a number of children of color have been treated more harshly than non-minority children for the same or similar offenses at each stage of the juvenile justice process, from arrest to sentencing. Our system of justice should be color-blind, but it isn't, and never has been.

I can only hope this legislation can strengthen the final action takes place. During the week ahead, the Children's Defense Fund will be working with House members on an effort to pass a bill that will do more to protect children from guns, protect children in the juvenile justice system from harm and discrimination, and ensure the significant investments in prevention efforts that will make a difference. We need your help. Please call your congressional representative at (202)225-3121 or write today and demand that your elected representative carry out your wishes to protect all our children.

Thankfully, mentoring is catching on here in the United States.

Northwestern magazine, the alumni magazine of my alma mater of Northwestern University, recently profiled the University's own Mentoring Program for African-American and Hispanic Freshmen. The program, which pairs students with alumni of similar racial/ethnic interests and racial/ethnic backgrounds, helps students adjust to the university and provides them with valuable advice on career options.

Northwestern's program was started in 1994 out of concerns that the school was not attracting nor retaining enough minority students. This past school year, over 70 percent of the African-Americans in the freshman class participated in the program, and over 125 alumni volunteered to help.

One success story is Jo Von Hardt. Hardy's grades and enthusiasm for school were in a downward spiral until he was introduced to recent graduate David C. Hinton. Hardy said Hinton's advice and involvement "brought all my grades up at least a letter." Hinton was even able to get Hardy an internship with his company, and he is now working towards a career in environmental engineering.

Northwestern is not an isolated case. A 1989 Los Harris poll found 73 percent of students with mentors said the relationships raised their expectations 49 percent and improved their grades. Affirmative action unfortunately offers no such support.

With the current generation of black college students, mentoring the first in their families to go to college, they lack the family experience and connections of other students. Affirmative action, which has dumped them at the door of a school or a job and run for cover off help. Norman McLean's advances in mentoring are especially important for black students in black advancement and racial healing in England without the scars that affirmative action has brought. The success of mentoring successes here can be repeated and eventually replace damaging affirmative action requirements.

David Almasi freelance columnist and a member of Project 21

"Private Ryans"

By Butch Miller

"Earn this." That was the challenge at the end of the movie "Saving Private Ryan" from one hero of World War II to another. "Earn this." In the movie, the phrase means: Honor the sacrifices of America's combat veterans by living a true good life.

For those of us in The American Legion who work every day with countless Private Ryans for every major conflict in this century, even though the hardships and sacrifices of military service have earned America's veterans the right to a home, accessible VA health-care system.

For the burdens of military service don't end when the battle flares are faded and this nation's Private Ryans take off their uniforms and return home. Wounds may heal and injuries may improve but many veterans leave the military with medical problems that stay with them the rest of their lives. Commonly, these problems worsen with age.

Fortunately, over the decades, this nation has built an impressive network of 173 hospitals dedicated to serving veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs, known as the VA. Unfortunately, the VA health-care system, by some standards the largest in the nation, where half of all physicians are veterans, is becoming more and more training, is on the verge of collapsing through financial neglect.

The VA, you see, is in its third year of a frozen, no-growth budget. And

Congress is in the process right now of gutting a portion of a VA budget that could guarantee a fourth year with spending locked in 1997 levels.

This sort of self-inflicted financial deficit threatened to drag down our economy. Veterans have always been tough. But why, when the federal government estimates it will take in at least \$100 billion more than it spends this year, are we having any pain?

We can't freeze the medical needs of veterans. Our World War II veterans are making more demands upon the VA medical system than ever before, trying to enter VA hospitals and clinics every day with their own problems.

The VA top doctor has estimated that he'll be able to off 3,000 medical workers, reduce hours, eliminate programs and even consider closing hospitals if Congress does not remove the medical facilities of a no-growth budget.

To reverse this alarming trend, The American Legion has embarked upon a campaign to pressure the VA medical system from slow financial strangulation. We call it "Budget Waging 2000."

When America's Private Ryans were called upon to serve their country, not one suggested that we take a no-growth approach to pain and suffering. They did what this country asked them to.

Like Private Ryan, they earned it. Now it's our responsibility to honor that debt.

The Encyclopedia Africana... at last!

By Askin Muhammad

People in struggle sometimes fall into two categories: those who compromise with the oppressor too quickly, and those who snuff defeat from the jaws of victory by insisting on endless struggle.

I sometimes fall into the latter category, relegating "good" ideas and healthy proposals to become forever the enemy of the "perfect."

Such is the case with the new "Encarta Africana," the first comprehensive encyclopedia of African history and culture which was introduced to great fanfare earlier this year.

The owner of several exhaustive and comprehensive encyclopedias, dictionaries, and reference books, I am happy for many reasons to have this new, compact, multimedia reference tool that was edited by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., Chairman of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University, and Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah, professor of Afro-American Studies and Philosophy at Harvard, in partnership with Bill Gates, Microsoft's CEO and technology giant Microsoft.

But I must confess that even though Drs. Gates and Appiah created the leading black intellectual of the 20th Century-Harvard-trained scholar Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, with conceiving the "dream" of an Encyclopedia Africana, and am just a little disappointed that the project could not be brought to completion without major corporate "red" ("white") help.

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I let the "good work," the great work of Drs. Gates and Appiah, become the enemy of my hope to see the "perfect work," of Drs. Du Bois and Nkrumah.

In an alliance to create Africa's ongoing Encyclopedia Africana Project (EAP) in Accra, Ghana has re-directed its focus to produce a 20-volume Dictionary of African Biography, with each volume covering a country or group of countries. Under the direction of Dr. S. Biobaku of Nigeria the EAP has

managed to publish three volumes: Vol. I Ghana and Ethiopia, Vol. II Sierra Leone and Zaire, Vol. III South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland.

Still I found myself secretly rooting against the "good" in favor of the "perfect." For my needs, might not be so perfect after all. I was happy, for example when I put the Encarta Africana, a multimedia CD-ROM edition of the EAP, into my computer and it did not boot-up. "Aha a glitch," I thought. "Even with multimillion dollar white support, mistakes are possible." I was justifying the failure of the all-black project with an imperfection in the journey.

But after I got over my own narrow race-defined bias, I now find that Encarta Africana is an excellent reference tool, which lives up to its billing as a "comprehensive" resource.

In addition to the inclusion of maps and pictures, even video, and the interactive nature of modern technology which is a part of Encarta Africana-technology which neither Dr. DuBois nor Dr. Nkrumah could ever have imagined the Encarta Africana project is also boosted by the body of new African and African American scholarship that has exploded on college and university campuses all over this country.

You can't beat the convenience of CD-ROM for its compact size and enormous search tools. With a lab-top computer, you can take a complete reference "library." Literally anyone in the world is in the space of a piece of toast. But what made me a "believer" in the expertise and reliability of the Encarta Africana Encyclopedia was a test in deep scholarship.

I was in a discussion and the word "binbo" came up as an insult to a woman. Women in the conversation objected. I remembered that Dr. John Langston Gwaltney, author of "Binbos," of Senegalese Black American and other books, had told me 15-years ago, not to use that term in that way, because the "Binbos" are a tribe of beautiful African people. So I went to my trusty Encarta Africana, and there it was. "Binbos, an ethnic group of West Africa."

Encarta Africana's spelling was not the "perfect" match, it was, as the saying goes, "close enough for government work," and I was not only satisfied but I was also happy, allowing good results be the enemy of perfect. Encarta Africana is a great tool!

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

NEWARK — The U.S. SBA (Small Business Administration) hosts a seminar on small business interested in learning about local financing at the Two Gateway Center, 10 a.m. (973) 645-2434.

THURSDAY, JULY 1

NEWARK — Entrepreneurs, parents and business owners and professionals are invited to the 1999 Building Wealth Opportunity Conference and Seminar at the Society Hills Club House, 7:30 p.m. (973) 469-2437.

SOMERVILLE — The Somerset County Business hosts a seminar on the path to good living. Call 1-(800) 265-5800 for time and information.

NEWARK — The Urban League of Essex County offers a course in homebuyership at the Urban League's Newark office, 6 p.m. (973) 624-9535.

TUESDAY, JULY 6

MONTCLAIR — The Urban League of Essex County offers a course in homebuyership at the YWCA, 6 p.m. (973) 746-9438.

CRAWFORD — Union County College offers a course in social windows, 7:10 p.m. (908) 709-7600.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

NEWARK — The Urban League of Essex County offers a course in homebuyership education at the Urban League's Newark office, 9 a.m. (973) 624-9535.

MONDAY, JULY 12

CRAWFORD — Union County College offers a course on becoming a global professional in the business world, 7 p.m. (908) 709-7600.

SOMERVILLE — The Somerset County Chamber of Commerce hosts a business practices for employers and employees at its new headquarters 8 a.m. (732) 452-0500.

TUESDAY, JULY 13

PARSONS — The Morris County Chamber of Commerce hosts a business after hours function at the Hilton Parsippany, 5:30 p.m. (973) 539-3882.

Give a "financially sound" graduation gift

WESTFIELD — Do you need to buy a college graduation gift this year? Here are a few "financially sound" ideas to consider. These gift suggestions don't include the new SW or long European tour your graduate may be planning for, but they can be the ticket for funding this new graduate's financial future. Depending on your budget:

- A lightweight notebook computer is a great career aid. Even if you do not know much about computers, your graduate is sure to. For a less pricey electronic gift, select a day-time organizer that allows the user to create customized calendars.
- To help your graduate with those "rough" interview questions, buy the book "Knock 'em Dead: The Ultimate Job Seekers Handbook," by

Marin Yate, published by Adam's Media (1998).

- To help your student (soon-to-be employee) get started on the right foot by setting aside some of that first "real" paycheck, give one of both of Peter Lynch's terrific first-time investor primers, "One Up on Wall Street and Beating the Street," published by Simon & Schuster.
- Gift a few shares of a stock that has a dividend reinvestment plan. The major attraction of such plans is the opportunity to buy shares of stock with little or no commissions charged. There are about 1,600 companies now offering dividend reinvestment plans (DRIPs) where the dividends paid are able to be invested in additional shares. Of these 1,600 plans, almost 500 great U.S. companies offer the

ability to purchase stock through direct-purchase plans (also known as DFPs or "no-load" stocks) so that even the first share of stock bought is commission free. This is an easy way for the new grad to continue investing and build a stock portfolio with small dollar amounts. You could also include with your gift a copy of "Buy Stocks Without a Broker" by Charles Carlson (McGraw-Hill, 1996).

- Take a little pressure off your graduate and make a gift of a monthly payment or two on the graduate's student loan. The recipient will appreciate the breathing room as the reality of "life after college" sets in.
- A gift certificate for career clothing is very practical for the new grad. After all, for four years, the stu-

dent has worn practically nothing but jeans and sweats and probably has not a stitch of proper attire for job-seeking or the work world.

- A comprehensive personal finance book will answer many of the financial "need to know's" of graduating seniors. Two good choices are "Making the Most of Money" by Jane Bryant Quinn (Simon & Schuster, 1997) and "Everyone's Money Book" by Jordan Goodman (Dearborn, 1998).
- Present your grad with a financial-planning organizer kit for all those important papers that will soon be accumulating and need to be filed. One such kit is "Home-File," available at many office supply stores.
- Four (or maybe more) years ago, your high school graduate took on the

challenge of college and made it! Reward your college graduate's perseverance and hard work with a gift that keeps on giving: the power of smart money management.

This MONEY 2000MT message is sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension MONEY 2000MT is a program designed to increase the financial well-being of New Jersey residents through increased savings and reduced household debt. For further information about MONEY 2000MT and other educational programs, contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension provides information and educational services to all people without regard to age, race, color, national origin, disability or handicap, or age.

How to create wealth in the black community

By Carl Chase
Staff Writer

NEW YORK — At a recent national summit on wealth creation for black communities held at Columbia University and other sites, One Hundred Black Men Inc. President Luther R. Gatling and hundreds of black corporate decision-makers, public policy makers, clergy, leading entrepreneurs and other professionals are calling for a major change of priorities.

Workshops covered the role of the black church in creating wealth, the role of sports and entertainment ownership of African-American communities, the role of the black press, new media and marketing for the new millennium. But Gatling, the president of Build Credit & Counseling Services, offered a four-step plan to launch a community-wide shift from income to wealth, from consumption to savings, and from spending to investing.

"I ask you to commit to the following four actions," he told a large audience.

- Join One Hundred Black Men or another organization committed to



Paul T. Williams, partner in the law firm Bryan Cave, LLP; Richard Grasso, president of the New York Stock Exchange; Gatling, president of the 100 Black Men Inc.; a founding chapter; and Rep. Charles Rangel gathered at the National Wealth Creation Summit in New York.

Do you have the guts to start a business?

(NNPA) — Q. Dear Regina: As an automotive executive with 10 years experience under my belt, I fear that I've reached a dead end in my career. There are only a handful of major manufacturers today, with white boys at the top of the ladder. In trying to transition into other fields, my resume is butting "zero" despite my MBA in a field that I haven't worked in for years. I am considering starting an Internet-based matchmaking site that pairs auto dealerships with hauling companies. In my current job, I encounter dealerships who automatically use hauling companies that may not be the most economical, when transporting cars from dealership to dealership. My new business would put dealers in touch with reliable towing companies for a monthly fee, and vice versa. I am thinking about calling the business CarsNNow. I have studied the market share, and if I get just two to three percent of the nation's dealers and hauling companies to participate, I'll gross \$20,000 per month. What major publicity services will I need to contact in order to make this business healthy enough to eventually leave my current position? The business needs to initially remain anonymous.

A. If you really want major publici-

ty and want to make CarsNNow work, have the guts to walk away from your current position. It's impossible to straddle both sides of the fence. You can't receive major national imaging as the new genius behind CarsNNow, yet still cling to the false security blanket of a full-time gig. In your case, your entrepreneurial pursuit is in direct conflict with your job. A major PR campaign for your new business would consist of publicizing it in all the automotive trade industry magazines, which your superiors are reading. In addition to aggressive placement in trade industry publications, you will need a marketing push to send information on CarsNNow to both dealerships and hauling companies nationwide. On one hand, you want national notoriety. On the other, you desire to remain anonymous. If you are in a dead end position my question is: Can you afford to remain anonymous?

Send marketing and public relations questions to: Regina Lynch-Hudson, The Write Publicist, c/o Regina's KRemedies, 6129 Queen Anne Court, Norcross, GA 30093. Call (770) 717-7020 or email: thewritepublicist@aol.com. Visit our Web site at: <http://www.thewritepublicist.com>

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Religion

City News A6

June 30 — July 6, 1999

RELIGION CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

MONTCLAIR — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church hosts church services 9 p.m. (973) 744-1074.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

NEWARK — Bethany Baptist Church hosts a church bazaar at the church parking lot 8 a.m. (973) 652-9161.

NEWARK — The St. Rose of Lima Church presents its weekly flea market with bargain bonanza specials 9 a.m. (973) 482-0662.

MONDAY, JULY 5

WESTFIELD — St. Helen's Church hosts a support group meeting for those caring for ill loved ones 8 p.m. (908) 522-9757.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

PLAINFIELD — The House of Prayer hosts its 13th Annual Youth Weekend through July 11. Call (908) 561-9996 for time and information.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

NEW YORK — Lincoln Center hosts a gospel celebration featuring today's gospel artist Nacey Jackson, part of the Lincoln Center Library presents a tribute to the life and work of gospel singer Tommy A. Dorsey. 1 July 10. Smith Memorial Church of God in Christ 8:30 p.m. (212) 721-6500.

NEW YORK — The Shorenberg Center for Research in Black Culture and the New York Public Library presents a tribute to the life and work of gospel singer Tommy A. Dorsey. 1 July 10. Smith Memorial Church of God in Christ 8:30 p.m. (212) 721-6500.

MONDAY, JULY 12

NEWARK — Church of God in Christ and New Garden State Synagogue presents "Youth Explosion '99," a celebration of music and prayer through July 16. Smith Memorial Church of God in Christ 8:30 p.m. (212) 721-6500.

TUESDAY, JULY 13

SUMMIT — Pathways and Cancer Care sponsor a free workshop for parents with cancer at Calvary Episcopal Church. Call (908) 277-3663 for time and information.

Harlem woman beats the odds to save the kids

NEW YORK — When Clara Hale's husband died at 30 from cancer she was left penniless, wondering how she could provide for her three kids on a house cleaner's salary. Her solution? Find more children to take care of!

Three decades ago, in a tiny apartment on one of Harlem's meanest streets a little woman now called Mother Hale began taking in babies nobody else wanted. She had little money and less time, but sometimes in her just kept saying yes to babies often one step from the dumpster.

A new book written by Mother Hale's daughter Dr. Lorraine E. Hale, tells the amazing journey of Hale House in personal stories and vivid photographs. Copies of "Thirty Years to the Day: A Retrospective of Hale House Now & Then," are available by contacting Hale House.

According to Dr. Hale, it all started like this: "One day I spotted a woman passed out from some sort of drug, slumped over on a crate with a bundle on her lap. She kept coming very close to dropping the bundle, and I didn't think anything of it until I saw a tiny hand poking out. It was just too much to pass by."

Dr. Hale, already familiar with her mother's compassion, implored the woman to go to Mother Hale, who took the baby in without question. It was the beginning of something neither woman could have ever predicted.

Word spread fast about the kind woman who would take in the children of mothers too addicted or disoriented to provide care, and in no time Mother Hale's little home was packed with kids.

In the three decades since, Hale House has been established as America's best known independent agency caring for babies born addicted to drugs, alcohol, nicotine and sometimes infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Over



3,000 children have been cared for over the years.

According to "Thirty Years to the Day," it was Mother Hale's spirit of fiery determination that made Hale House succeed. The not-for-profit program receives no money from welfare or other government sources, and Mother Hale wanted it that way.

"Nobody owes you something for nothing, and usually what you trade for welfare is your dignity," she would often say, according to her daughter. This same message of mighty independence was passed on to the children she cared for.

With kind love and a firm hand, Hale House was founded to instill a sense of family among children who have none. The method has worked so well that kids who have passed through Hale House often return as adults to express their gratitude.

In the new book, Dr. Hale tells of one young man who was applying for a job at Hale House when he suddenly remembered he had been a resident there in his boyhood.

"We found his name in the records and, sure enough, he had



Mother Clara Hale

lived here with his sister." Dr. Hale remarked. He got the job.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan declared Mother Hale to be a "true American Hero" during his State of the Union Address.

After Mother Hale's death in 1992, Dr. Hale took over the Hale House reins. As her mother envisioned, Hale House has continued to offer much more than just food and shelter. Hale House combines a holistic, natural foods diet with chiropractic therapy and plenty of tender-loving care and prayer.

Positively Black

Contradict the distortions

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

(NNPA) — "As powerful as the media is, it cannot distort the image of a people whose living examples contradict the distortion. When black adults exemplify the qualities that make for a strong proud people, we will have strong and proud youth. Nothing the image makers can do will efface the actions of a people whose image is a true reflection of their culture and history. It is axiomatic that images which are imposed upon a people can only survive with the submission of a people they are supposed to portray." — Useni Eugene Perkins from Harvesting New Generations. P. 194

The Littleton, Colo. incident forced America, at least for a short time, to admit as a nation that graphic violence is a staple of this country's popular culture and entertainment. Even President Clinton got into the act when he called a special white House conference to examine the role the mass media plays in promoting a value system of violence. All that well and good. However, the fact is, violence was a way of life long before there was mass media. The mass media is simply a tool used to promulgate and reinforce the values of this society. The media owners' image makers won't promote anything that runs counter to their socio-economic and/or political agendas. Hence you rarely see in the media seriously thought-provoking material or programming. A former FCC executive once referred to television as a "vast wasteland."

Many of us fail to realize there is a value system, a perspective and an agenda behind the media. People purposely decide what we see, how it is framed and presented and in what context it is produced. The media, be it motion pictures, television or print is neither random nor haphazard. There is a method to their madness. That methodology is the promotion of white supremacy, the constant need to make themselves look good and black's look bad. For example, prior to all the killings in rural and suburban white school districts, anti-social behavior or senseless acts of violence

were most likely attributed to black folks. Where do people get that perception? From the media, print publications, advertisements, motion pictures, videos, radio and television and the Internet. The "media" is all pervasive and its ubiquitous presence permeates our psyches daily.

Throughout its history, American media has maliciously depicted Africans as less human, less intelligent and less deserving of compassion and empathy. We have been duped into thinking the media creates or mirrors "reality" and that the content of its programming and editorial philosophy is harmless entertainment or reliable journalism.

That's nonsense. For almost 400 years Africans in America have been subjected to a pernicious bias in society as a whole. We should acknowledge that reality and take steps to counter this overt assault on our collective mind and person. Make no mistake, the media is powerful and pervasive. Yet, as powerful as it is, it is not indomitable or omnipotent. We are not helpless victims or automatons. We can must play a major role by being selective and discerning consumers. Don't watch, attend, listen to, purchase or subscribe to programs, motion pictures, videos, radio shows, newspapers, magazines or Websites that depict us in unflattering terms. Use your very best judgment when determining if material is harmful, racially demeaning or degrading. You have a moral obligation not to expose yourself or your children to it. We must seriously scrutinize the media, even our own. That is the second step.

The first step is to know our history and understand the importance of culture in shaping opinions and defining character, ethnic and societal values, perspective or discovering our innate potential. Culture is what we do, why and how we do it. Let's take a more thorough look at our culture and everything about ourselves. Be introspective. If your thoughts, emotions, actions and habits are not empowering, enabling or guiding you to discover and actualize your genetic potential, you need to do something different.

'Good news New York'

NEW YORK — For the first time since Billy Graham took over Madison Square Garden in 1957, New York will experience an extended city-wide evangelistic crusade called "Good News New York." For six weeks this summer, July 7 through August 14, evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne and thousands of volunteers from New York and more than 20 countries will pull out all the stops to show and tell New Yorkers about God's love.

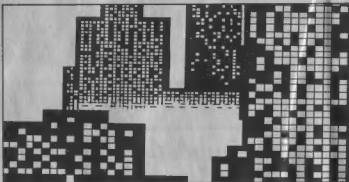
By day, they will reach out to the city's five boroughs with street evangelism, bough-wide youth rallies and prayer meetings, free weekly concerts at the Jones Beach Bandshell, and distribution of food and clothing to those in need; by night, a free-of-charge revival meeting at Madison Square Garden will welcome all comers with crusade messages interpreted into at least eight languages.

"America needs a change of heart," said South African-born evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne. "New York City is a fast-paced place where people stuck in the everyday rat race need help to find peace of mind." Howard-Browne believes that reaching New York is the ticket to reaching the world for Jesus Christ. To that end, a broad spectrum of more than 2,100 New York area churches, Protestant and Catholic, are expected to participate in the six-week outreach.

More than 2,100 metro New York area churches from many denominations have been involved in the year-long crusade preparations. Thousands of volunteers arriving from 20 countries will serve as hosts at the Garden and participate in ongoing street ministry.

In addition, "Good News New York" will encompass daily street outreaches and special events throughout New York City conducted by thousands of volunteers in three-to-four member teams beginning June 21 and continuing throughout the crusade. These will be organized from 25 strategically placed local distribution centers throughout all five New York City boroughs. Teams will rally at the centers before walking through the community to pass out evangelistic tracts and information about the crusade meetings.

Through "Good News New York" and Mercy Ministries out-



reaches, more than one-half million pounds of food will be distributed at nine sites located at all five boroughs on select weekends, during the six week crusade beginning July 9. A second one-half million pounds of food and clothing-donated by the city of New York and international agencies Feed the Hungry and Teaching Health for Life Ministries will also be given.

More than 25,000 volunteers including representatives from 20 countries will assist crusade work and participate in ongoing street ministry.

Ministry centers will train, equip and then send volunteers into New York's five boroughs, Long Island, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Crusade meetings will be interpreted into eight languages through 10,000 translation radios.

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Ad

Celebrating the genius of African-American musicians

NEWARK — The Bethany Baptist Church's Lecture Committee was the proud sponsor of the Newark Community Concert Choir's Spring Concert, Spiritual Rebirth and Celebration in Song, June 4, 1999 at the church located at 275 West Market Street, Newark, NJ.

Rev. Dr. James A. Scott, Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church feels that it has long been the Church's aim to provide cultural programs that reach out into the greater Newark community. This program is the third of five events that the Church's Lecture committee has planned for 1999.

Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, is the choir's founder and Dr. Conrad D. Brown is the director of this outstanding group of fifty. These voices represent sixteen churches from Newark and vicinity. The Newark Community Concert Choir will continue to use Bethany Baptist for its rehearsals for the remainder of the calendar year.

According to Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, and former presenter of the Choir, "This is an effort focused exclusively on churches and community partnering for mission, culture and unity."

Although the Newark Community Concert Choir members have only been together for the past two years, they have made tremendous inroads in Newark and have been widely heard by diverse audiences. This concert marks the Choir's third major concert in the years since its formation in 1997. Tickets are available on a first come, limited basis by contacting the Bethany Baptist Church at (973) 623-8161.

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Prayer Corner

This weekly inspiration is sent to you from Alliance of Black Lucent Employees (ABLE), John N. Williams - Garden State Chapter Spiritual Enrichment Committee

"... The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which is in the spirit of God's great price." — Peter 3:4

James and John were two of the twelve disciples. These two (who were brothers) decided that they wanted to sit on the right side of Jesus in glory (Mark 10:35). They went a step further — they got their mother involved in this request (Mark 20:20). Well, the other ten disciples got very upset with them. These two brothers caused a disturbance between the other brethren because of their desire to occupy certain positions.

So, we don't need to be troubled in spirit, draw others into the matter (in the workplace, during dinner with the family when we should be talking about things that are lovely), nor cause a commotion over a position or whatever (like these brothers & their mother). We should pattern ourselves after the spider who takes hold with her hands and is in King's palaces (Proverbs 30:28) — no commotion — no trail of spiders involved; but, when we look up, her web is there — even in the king's palace! "Blessings are upon the head of the just" (Proverbs 10:6). Don't be disturbed. They are promised. Wait for them!

God speaks through billboards

An anonymous private investor started a billboard campaign in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and it has now made it's way to Dallas, Texas. The new public service billboards were created by a Dallas advertising agency and are getting a lot of attention. Here's a list of the variations of the "God Speaks" billboards provided by ABLE of Lucent Technologies. The billboards have a simple black background with white text. There is no fine print or sponsoring organization. Others spiritual messages include Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game. — God, C'mon over and bring the kids. — God. What part of "Thou Shalt Not..." didn't you understand? — God. Follow Me. — God. You think it's hot here. — God. Need Directions. — God. Have you read my #1 best seller? There will be a test? — God.

We need to talk — God

Keep using my name in vain I'll make rush hour longer.

— God

America's first network showcases today's gospel extravaganzas

ATLANTA — MBC Network promises to be the first African American family values and lifestyles 24-hour program service in North America at the National Cable Television Association annual convention in Chicago. The launch was celebrated with the announcement that Comcast Cablevision and Peak Cablevision will rollout the service later this year.

Network founder and CEO Alvin D. James was joined by MBC cofounders Evander Holyfield (former heavyweight champion), Cecil Fielder (former with Yankees), Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five), and noted attorney Willie Gary to present a dramatic and pioneering program schedule that includes eight original programs featuring a wide variety of formats that instill strong spiritual values and showcase today's gospel music.

"We are the only advertiser-supported cable network that can fulfill the immense void left by the major broadcast networks," said

James. "MBC will exceed viewers and cable operator expectations with its family oriented formats and morally sound broadcasts. Our understanding of the marketplace and our business relationships ensure strong growth and rapid acceptance."

Both Republican and Democratic national leaders have formally endorsed MBC. Among those who have publicly supported the network are US Congressmen Lindsey O. Graham and Bennie G. Thompson as well as US Senators James M. Inhofe, Rick Santorum, and John Ashcroft.

Evander Holyfield enthused, "I've been a fighter all my life. I know what's worth fighting for. This network is it."

The MBC Network will produce and distribute inspirational and entertainment programming with a gospel slant to target African American men and women in the 18-44 year old markets. The new fall lineup of original programming will include Rhythm & Praise, Spir-

itual Impact, Health for the Nation, Sports, Lifestyles, Heavenly Laughter, and The Gospel Heritage Awards among others.

Former New York Yankee and MBC Vice Chair Cecil Fielder said, "We want to enhance the lives of the African American community by producing something positive, productive and inspiring."

MBC Network has signed an exclusive agreement with Revelation Corporation of America, serving churches and their communities across the country by creating "Revelation Television," a two-hour ministry segment that will be included within the network's programming. According to CEO and founder Alvin D. James it's a win-win situation. "We bring satellite distribution and cable TV homes to the table and Revelation will bring our cable television message to over 160,000 churches across America."

Marlon Jackson, president of the MBC Network said, "We are giving kids today what

they want to see on TV. And we'll also show them that it's cool to be spiritual and committed to your community."

The Major Broadcasting Network (MBC) is a minority owned and operated network available on Telstar 5 and Transponder 17. MBC is dedicated to providing wholesome entertainment for the entire family. By offering alternatives to the violence and other negative messages that are pervasive in today's media, MBC believes that it can help reclaim our youth and restore families and communities. The vision of this network is to provide intelligent, spiritually significant, value-oriented programming that involves every sector of the community—business, entertainment, sports, nonprofit and government—for a diverse audience. Although MBC targets an inadequately served demographic, the African American community, the service is nonexclusive and is designed to have a positive impact on all Americans.

Righteous Rhythms



Brent Jones and T.P. Mobbs introduce a "New Sound of Praise." At a time when the world was still getting used to the sound of Hip Hop, Brent Jones decided that this new and exciting musical genre would provide the perfect vehicle to spread the gospel news of salvation. In 1992 he held open auditions and recruited praise partners for the T.P. Mobbs (Total Praise) and began his quest to "blend the streets with heaven." And they did... Currently signed to Holy Roller Records, their self titled debut album was released in June 1999.



TJ and Drew are on a path very much different from many young men around their ages of 19 and 20 years old. These brothers from Fairfield, California, devote their time and energy for the will of God. They have a ministry for the youth of today, one of joy and peace. As a group, TJ (Timothy Jeremiah Gibson) and Drew (George Andrew Gibson) call themselves REMIX (Sovereign Entertainment). Their name is so special because it is a remixing of the musical favor they offer. Their hip hop and R&G (Rhythm and Good News) mix leaves a soulful massage.

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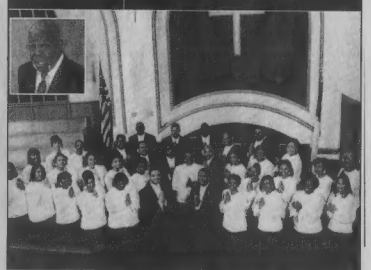
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Peacock Gospel Classics



When Reverend Milton Brunson died in April 1997, he left behind an almost fifty-year legacy extending back to 1948, when, at age 18, he organized his first mass choir, a forty-member group from Chicago. The deepest roots of African-American gospel tradition grow out of congregational singing, shouting, hand clapping and foot stomping. They brought together the larger-than-life sound of a mass choir with a disciplined vocal precision of a gospel quartet. This collection, *Sit At His Feet And Be Blessed*, represents the best work of that era.



To hear Reverend Jackie McCullough preach is to know the voice of one who has walked through the fires of tribulation and emerged as a vessel of gold. The word she brings forth is founded in the bedrock of Scripture and ignited by the Holy Spirit to enrich, challenge and inspire the hearts and souls of God's people. Gospel Today Magazine listed her as one of the "Most Influential African-American Ministers in the Nation." McCullough will release her new album *This Is For You Lord* this month.

Local Briefs

Countries receive increase funding under NJ Transit program

NEWARK — New Jersey's 21 counties will share \$22.8 million in Fiscal Year 2000 to operate local public transit programs for senior citizens and people with disabilities under action taken today by NJ Transit's Board of Directors. In addition, 10 counties for the first time will receive \$1.6 million in federal funding for transportation initiatives supporting Governor Whitman's WORK FIRST New Jersey initiative, a welfare reform plan to help New Jersey public assistance recipients achieve self-sufficiency. The Board approved the implementation of New Jersey's Special Services Transportation Program for Fiscal Year 2000, which begins July 1.

Letters ask governor to approve \$6 million for libraries

TRENTON — To encourage Governor Whitman to approve the \$6 million request for technology funds for libraries. In last year's budget, libraries received money for technology which helped to fund: The Virtual Academic Library Environment (VALE). Through this funding, 45 public and private libraries of NJ higher education institutions provide cost effective access to scholarly resources which would not afford on their own. Libraries 2000 - This program is linking libraries electronically, providing and free Internet access, training library staff as well as New Jersey's residents, and providing at least one computer for every one of the 320 public libraries. INFORME - electronic Spanish language magazine database. New Jersey is the first state to offer this service. To maintain these programs, it is vital that \$6 million dollars be a part of this year's budget. With these monies our academic and public libraries will be able to keep the state-of-the-art base they have begun with other funding. Technology is shaping the future of our future and our libraries are important avenues by which New Jersey's people can obtain that information.

Survey shows that people come from near and far for balloon festival

PARAMUS — The Quick Check New Jersey Festival of Ballooning recently polled people who attended past festivals. The results of this study, conducted by mail, were impressive. Nearly 54 percent of those who returned the surveys had attended two or three festivals; over 30 percent of the respondents traveled up to 50 miles to attend the festival held at Solberg Airport in Readington, New Jersey. Even more startling is that 32 percent traveled anywhere from \$1 to \$75 miles.

The 1999 festival has activities for the entire family that begins Friday, July 23 and ends Sunday, July 25. In spite of the wall-to-wall air shows, musical performances, arts and crafts and other entertainment, 88 percent of the attendees came to experience the massive morning and evening balloon ascents. But, 77 percent of the respondents have never been in a hot air balloon.

This survey concludes that a festival like this is not only for the children, but also for the adults, as 73 percent of those who attended were between the ages of 26 and 49.

Families can save for this year's



Thousands gather to view the massive hot air balloons

festival by purchasing tickets in advance either in person at Quick Check Food Stores, by telephone 1-800-HOT-AIR-9, by fax (973) 882-7961, or by visiting the Web site www.balloonfestival.com. Advance tickets for adults are \$15.00, if purchased at the gate, \$20.00. Entrance for children ages four to twelve is \$6.00 for advance tickets, \$10.00 at the gate. Children three and under are free. A portion

of the proceeds from advance ticket sales will benefit the Children's Miracle Network. Festival times are 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday. Gates open at 6 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday, and closes at 10 p.m. Balloon ascension times are 6:30 p.m. each day and 6:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Group discounts and special preferred packages are also available. There is ample parking and free express shuttle buses.

New scholarship in honor of Pau Robeson comes to Rutgers

NEW BRUNSWICK/FISCAT-AWAY — A new scholarship to honor Rutgers alumnus Pau Robeson has been established by his alma mater less than a year after the university celebrated the 100th anniversary of his birth. The scholarship, which will cover the annual cost of full-time attendance at Rutgers, is being funded through a donation of \$315,000 by Ken Boxley of Beverly Hills, Calif.

The Rutgers Endowed Pau Robeson Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time New Jersey undergraduate student based on academic promise and financial need. The scholarship will cover such items as tuition, fees, books, and room and board. The estimated value in the first year is \$15,700.

"Pau Robeson distinguished himself in so many ways in the classroom and the sports arena, as an artist and a social activist, but, most importantly, as a man who held true to his principles," said Rutgers President Francis L. Lawrence.

"Rutgers is pleased to remember this outstanding alumnus and to help other students strive to reach the ideals Robeson so successfully fought to achieve. We applaud Mr. Boxley for generously contributing to the memory of this great man."

The award is designed to celebrate Robeson's legacy as a role model and to increase public awareness of his contributions to history, race relations and education.

"While talking with President Lawrence about providing educational opportunities for New Jersey students, I thought my family could help keep some of the state's brightest students here in the state for college, while also honoring Paul Robeson and the values he stood for," Boxley said.

"Moreover, I strongly believe that many of the problems of society can be solved through education. When you use money for education you are targeting the very root of the problem," said Boxley, who has been a leading donor to Rutgers for

several years and to date has contributed more than \$1 million to the university. "I invite others to join me in making financial contributions to this endowment to continue a very worthy cause."

An entrepreneur, Boxley has supported students and programs in a wide range of fields, from the arts to public policy. Boxley took a leading role in raising funds for Rutgers when the university embarked on its Campaign for Community, Diversity and Educational Excellence more than five years ago. The three-year campaign, designed to raise funds for scholarships, fellowships and pre-college programs, netted more than \$5.7 million.

The university expects to award the first Rutgers Endowed Pau Robeson Scholarship during the 1999-2000 academic year. The scholarship will be renewable for three years based on continued academic progress and will be administered by Rutgers' Office of Financial Aid.

Youth violence task force offers real solutions

By Assemblyman Jim Smith

ASBURY PARK — Each time news breaks of yet another school massacre, many New Jerseyans, no doubt, hold their breath, hoping this escalated level of violence has spared our state again.

One day, a sigh of relief might not follow such news.

But are we doing all we can to decrease the chances of another horrific scene like those in Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky and Colorado? The answer is, no yet.

But there are some very real, very practical ideas on how to reduce violence in our schools. On June 7, the Assembly Task Force on Adolescent Violence, unveiled 68 recommendations geared toward making schools safer and our children less prone to violent behavior.

Well before the Littleton, Colorado, massacre occurred, the seven member bipartisan panel began holding a series of public hearings to study preventive measures, causes and solutions to the violence problem among children. The group examined incidents of random violence, then recommended protective measures that may be taken, legislatively or otherwise, to deter such acts or lessen their impacts.

The task force held four public hearings, focusing on issues relating to the juvenile justice system; school violence; gang membership and outreach programs promoting conflict res-

olution and non-violent solutions; efforts by the clergy to combat the problem; and the influence of television and the media have on youths' images of violence and violent behavior.

During a March trip organized in conjunction with the Juvenile Justice Commission, task force members visited the juvenile medium-security facility and Valentine Hall unit for girls in Bordentown, the Florence Crittenton unit for girls and the juvenile high school at St. Joseph's Church in Trenton. During the visits, the legislators spoke face to face with violent offenders incarcerated at the facilities.

The 65-page report offers dozens of suggestions, including smaller schools, tougher juvenile gun access laws, mandatory communication between school, law enforcement and state officials, and empowering teachers to initiate early intervention for at-risk youths. The recommendations make clear that the success of these suggestions depends on a group effort.

No single agency or program will solve the problem by itself. Youth violence is a complicated problem fed by many factors, including the breakup of families, lack of moral and spiritual values and inadequate communication between affected groups. We all are responsible for our children and the direction of our state and country. Everyone must pitch in — including the federal government — if we are to make progress.

NAACP honors foster care program

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Brunswick Area Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) presented its Community Service Award for Youth Development to the Program Director of the Harvest of Hope Foster Care Program. The award was presented at the 26th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner on June 18, 1999 at the Double Tree Hotel in Somerset.

The Harvest of Hope program addresses a serious problem, which exists in the minority community," says Wandra L. Ashley-Williams, President of the New Brunswick Chapter. The Community Service Award is given to an individual or an organization for volunteering or providing a service to the community in accordance with the purpose and aims of the

NAACP. Harvest of Hope partners with the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) to address the "boulder baby" crisis in NJ. Harvest of Hope recruits homes statewide to place infants whom are medically cleared for discharge yet are boarding in hospitals.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is a nonprofit organization established with the objectives of insuring the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority groups. Chartered in 1940, the New Brunswick Area Branch of the NAACP has significant plans for the 21st Century. According to Ashley-Williams, the New Brunswick Chapter will launch, new programs aimed at youth empowerment, educational excellence, economic development, and health outreach.

Three win scholarships from journalists group

Continued from page A1

One of her main role models is Bishop Donald Hilliard, the pastor of Cathedral Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy. "He really encourages all the youth, even when people put us down and say we can't do things," she said. She is also a candidate for a grant to be awarded by the church's Education Ministry, she said.

Her ambition is to become an anchorwoman for a major network news show.

A member of the Quail and Scroll Honor Society at Manalapan High, for two years she wrote a column on various subjects for the student newspaper, Horizons. She wrote about black colleges, the deaths of Mother Teresa and Princess Diana, and her own grandmother, about how her life in Virginia was not so different from Sharisse's generation.

Alexander was recommended by her journalism teacher, Susan Magod, who encouraged her greatly in writing, she said.

Sharisse loves growing in her Christian faith and encourages others to speak up for God. She dreams of one day writing Christian books.

Margaret Williams, of East Orange, who attends Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell, plans to attend New York University, majoring in Journalism/Mass Communications.

She has also won the 1999 National Achievement Warner-Lambert Scholarship. Williams said she had hoped to become a lawyer like Marian Wright Edelman, but has decided she can help children as an investigative journalist for a national paper reporting on crimes against children.

Each student submitted a nominating letter from their school adviser, dean or teacher familiar with their work, and a one-page autobiography explaining career goals and journalistic work come from a rich West Indian heritage which places much emphasis on family unity and

togetherness," she wrote in her autobiography. "Thus, when I hear or read the tragic reports of children who die of parental abuse, I am completely mortified by this decline in family morale," she wrote, referring to the statistical fact that a child dies of neglect or abuse every seven hours.

"That's an entire grade-school class every other day," she wrote.

Applicants were judged on writing ability, originality and potential to succeed in a journalism career.

The Garden State Association of Black Journalists is an 10-year-old organization of print and broadcast journalists and media professionals who live or work in New Jersey. The organization is an affiliate chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, a 20-year-old professional organization that seeks to promote employment of African Americans in the media by offering internships and scholarships.

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Cheap Thrills: The Beauty in Stretching a Dollar

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

There's nothing more pleasing than to be surrounded by beauty, especially in the home. And there is no reason to sink to the abyssal depth of debt to achieve such beauty.

Therefore, we're pleased to announce the first of an ongoing section dedicated to beautifying the home on a shoe string budget - that's your part - and on your part on your behalf will be to provide you with a wealth of creative ideas, information and tid-bits that will be highlighted on a regular basis as City News kicks off City Net 2000.

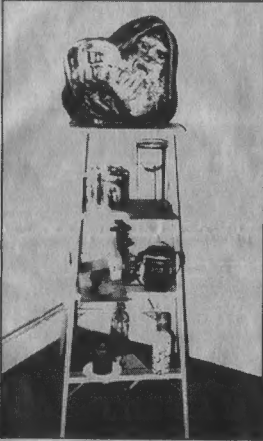
"Essence and Kraft at Home" recently teamed up to present decorating ideas ranging from floral motifs to the latest rave in inviting candle presentation to enhance the home.

With a backdrop of the breathtaking view from the Manhattan Penthouse, an audience filled predominantly with women were given tips on how to pack the perfect picnic basket by Norma Jean Darden, author of "Spoonbread and Strawberry Wine" and the owner of Spoonbread Catering.

However, to further enhance their thoughts we sought-out our own experts to provide you with information that should prove to be helpful.

If you're in the process or thinking about redoing a room or your home, your first move should be to have it reflect you.

And because you're working with very limited funds the following examples are cost efficient ideas to get you started.



Decorative

Tip #1 :You can't afford to buy a shelving unit to store your little knick-knacks on, but you own a ladder well then you've got yourself a shelving unit. Go out and purchase a quart or gallon depending on the size of the ladder and paint it an awesome decorative color and voila throw a few elongated ceramic tiles on every other rung to add depth and you've created not only a shelving unit but quite a conversation piece. You can purchase the ceramic tiles from Home Depot for less than \$2 each.

Tip #2 :Don't just sit candles out around your home - show them off. A set of sherbert frosted martini glasses turned upside down make perfect holders for medium sized pillar candles. You can find this five-piece set with white frosting accompanying pitcher decanter at Value City or Valley Fair for \$9.99.



Carpentry

Tip #4 :You're ready to hit the floor because your kitchen chairs are on their last legs and you can't afford to buy a complete set. Why not build your own? That's right dig out the saw, get yourself a ruler, sandpaper, and a box of nails make some time and build a set yourself. Materials needed for the chair include (5) 2x2's spruce wood at \$1.99 for an 8ft. sheet, 1 quart of stain according to color taste, 1 inch nails. Each chair cost under \$20 to make. Lewis Porter of Tinton Falls made these chairs.



Sandra Parks, owner of the florist shop Daily Blossom offered helpful hints on beautifying the home with flowers. The point she stressed: don't be afraid to mix color, color and more color.



Courtney Sione of the acclaimed studio Alternative Design suggested that hobbies and interest dear to heart to be incorporated in the home. And there you have it from the experts.

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Arts and Crafts

Tip #3 :If you're not an avid art enthusiast don't spend \$40 and up to buy just any old print that you'll have to mat and frame to match a room.

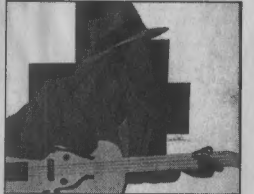
Try this: frame and mat one of the pictures from an old calendar a friend or family member might have given you before tossing it out. Or frame your favorite cover from a fashion magazine, or any magazine as for that matter.



Giving tips on how to pack the perfect picnic basket is Norma Jean Darden, author of "Spoonbread and Strawberry Wine" and the owner of Spoonbread Catering.



Espresso



Blue Note



Friends

Art

Tip #5 :Now if you're on the road to becoming an art enthusiast start patronizing your local artists and galleries, where the unknowns are hanging out. You'll be able to buy an original at far less the price of what it will cost after they've made it big - usually under \$200. And then you can say, I knew them when...

LTP Artworks local artist, Lucia Porter from Tinton Falls (732) 922-4233.

Aboard New Jersey's liberty line

Jersey City's footprints of freedom

By Lucy Sanchez
Staff Writer

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey's rich African-American heritage can be found throughout the state's historic districts and sites. Often times we are surrounded by places our ancestors once gathered and may not be knowledgeable of it. There are pockets of our ancestors' artifacts and symbols of their struggles in our very own hometowns and we just have to seek them out.

As one enters the Jersey City library you may not be aware that on the second floor lies a thirty-year old museum dedicated solely to collecting the treasures of the African-American journey to freedom. This path to liberation is marked through African instruments, dolls, and Kente clothes. The exhibits highlight the tenets of slavery displaying men, children and adult manacles which were once placed over the necks and ankles of enslaved Africans on their way to the Americas. Life size portraits display the open cuts and lashes left on the backs of slaves from the relentless lashings of the masters. It then guides you past the slavery era to the Civil Rights Movement through a collection of Black Power photos and magazine clippings which pull you to the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, to the March on Washington through the time Jesse Jackson ran for president. Through the cherished and painful collections of the past and the present Jersey City Museum offers an enlightening and educational experience for the family. The museum also offers interactive sessions for the school children to bring them "out of the European world and into the African world." If you would like to take this journey and travel home with a montage of writings reflecting the African-American community then stop by the second floor of Jersey City's library.



Preserving Lawnside's historical treasures



By Lucy Sanchez
Staff Writer

Although the traditional history books may not tell of the tragic voyage to the Americas, a small town in South Jersey is trying to preserve the closest link they have to the African-American community of the 21st century. Retracing the footsteps of Africans history in the Americas takes one to the only historically African-American incorporated municipality in the northern United States. The historic town of Lawnside, located eight miles southeast of Camden, has been through the terrors of slavery through the Depression era.

The residents of this town have joined in a concerted effort to preserve the treasures of their town. One such site is the Peter Mott house which is in need of reconstruction. Peter Mott was an African-American farmer, a plasterer and a preacher. He was born into slavery in the early 1800s, and by 1845 he became one of the few free African Americans to actually own property. The six room house has a wealth of history dwelling in it. Legend says that Mott carried run away slaves in his wagon to Quaker conductors on the Underground Railroad. His residence was used as a "safe house" for along the road to freedom.

The Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church, a branch of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church that was founded by Richard Allen, as well as the Mount Peace Cemetery tells stories of the past as one tours through the graveyards. Rows and rows of stones bear the names of South Jersey's black Civil War veterans. Other historic sites are the Timbuctoo, in Westampton, the NJ Manual Training and Industrial School for Colored Youth (Bordentown School), Bordentown, Jacob's Chapel Church, in Mount Holly, and Macedonia A.M.E. Church in Camden.

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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center offers a course in Lamaze and childbirth. 7:15 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

EAST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Post Office. 10 a.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

FRIDAY, JULY 2

WAYNE — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at Wayne General Hospital. 3 p.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

TOTOWA — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Totowa Community Center. 7 a.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

MONDAY, JULY 5

MONTCLAIR — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at Edgemont Park. 12 p.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

TUESDAY, JULY 6

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center offers a course in Lamaze and childbirth. 7:15 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

EAST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at its East Orange office. 10 a.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center holds a support group meeting for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients at the hospital's conference room. 8 p.m. (201) 915-2000.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County & Plainfield Area holds an open blood drive at Our Lady Cathedral. 3 p.m. (908) 756-6414.

THURSDAY, JULY 8

ROSELAND — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Roseland Fire Department. 9 a.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

UNION — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at Union Hospital. 3 p.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

SOUTH AMBOY — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Masonic St. Stephen's Lodge. 9 a.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

ELIZABETH — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at Blessed Sacrament Church. 8 a.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

MONDAY, JULY 12

PLAINFIELD — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at Mulhern Regional Medical Center. 4 p.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

TUESDAY, JULY 13

FANWOOD — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County and Plainfield holds an open blood drive at Fanwood Recreational Square. 3 p.m. (908) 756-6414.

THURSDAY, JULY 15

ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Hospital Center of Orange. 9 a.m. 1-(800)-BLOOD-NJ.

FRIDAY, JULY 16

EAST BRUNSWICK — The 24th Annual New Jersey Al-Anon/Alateen Convention takes place at the Montclair Hilton Hotel through July 18th. It's a statewide convention open to members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Call (973) 335-3645 for time and information.

MONDAY, JULY 19

MOUNTAIN SIDE — The Children's Specialized Hospital hosts its Tenth Annual Golf Classic at the Montclair Golf Club in West Orange. Call (908) 301-5409 for information and time.

THURSDAY, JULY 22

PLAINFIELD — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County and Plainfield holds an open blood drive at the Queenborough Manor. 4:30 p.m. (908) 756-6414.

FRIDAY, JULY 23

MONTCLAIR — The Eastern School of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine holds an open house. 7 p.m. (973) 746-9717.

TUESDAY, JULY 27

EDISON — JFK Medical Center offers a class in early pregnancy. 7 p.m. (732) 321-7000.

Increased condom use needed worldwide

WASHINGTON (IPS) — The use of condoms worldwide must triple in order to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), according to a report by a prominent U.S. public health agency.

An estimated six billion condoms are used throughout the world each year, but this number must be increased to 24 billion in order to impede the spread of AIDS and other diseases, says the study, "Closing the Condom Gap," by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, Md.

"Narrowing the gap between the need and use of condoms is a major public health challenge," stated the report.

New efforts are needed to make condoms more accessible, including lowering their cost, effectively promoting their use, and overcoming the many

social and personal obstacles to their use, particularly in developing countries where the impact of AIDS is most acute, it said.

At least 33 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS, and another 14 million have died. Some 16,000 new infections are estimated to occur every day, about 60 percent of them in women, many of whom pass the disease along to their newborn children.

Nearly six million people became infected last year alone, according to the UN special AIDS program (UNAIDS), about two-thirds of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa. Several countries in the southern part of Africa report that more than 20 percent of their adult population is infected.

AIDS is also spreading quickly in Asia, particularly in South and Southeast

Asia. The region is believed to account for another 20 percent of all new 1998 infections.

In addition to the toll exacted by AIDS last year, other sex-related diseases infected some 333 million people, according to the report, which is based on dozens of recent studies. Most of all diseases could be prevented if people used condoms correctly and consistently, according to the report, which notes, "Laboratory tests show that no sexually-transmitted infection, including HIV, can penetrate an intact latex condom."

Still, people often are reluctant or unable to use them. Many simply don't like the condom as a form of contraception, but many more cannot afford them to obtain them easily. Still others believe they face little or no risk of pregnancy or disease.

Unmarried young people are especially at risk, according to the report. Many face social pressures to have sex but have difficulty getting condoms, in part because many family-planning programs are not geared toward them.

"Family planning programs usually focus on the contraceptive needs of married women, while much of the need for condoms is to prevent HIV/AIDS and other infections among unmarried people, particularly youth," the report stated.

Half of all people who become infected are between the ages of 10 and 25 years. "In the era of AIDS, young people need guidance, encouragement, and access to condoms."

Hopkins researchers estimate that 71 percent of condom need is among sexually active unmarried men; the rest are used by married men who have

extramarital affairs and by married couples.

Condoms should be made accessible to all at subsidized prices and provided not only through health clinics and retail shops, but also in hotels, bars, grocery stores, and vending machines, the report says. In addition, special programs should target specific groups, including youth, unmarried men and sex workers.

Part of the challenge is overcoming basic ignorance. "In most countries everybody has heard of AIDS. Knowledge of condoms is also widespread," according to the report. "Yet many people who know about AIDS and about condoms do not know that using condoms can prevent AIDS."

Condoms, according to the report, can be very cost-effective.

Women now have alternative treatment to hysterectomy

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital can now offer women a safe and effective non-surgical procedure for the treatment of symptomatic fibroids, which cause bleeding, pain, bloating, and perhaps infertility. Known as Uterine Artery Embolization, this safe non-surgical technique shrinks fibroids by cutting off their blood supply.

Frank Vogel, MD, an interventional radiologist and newly appointed director of the Department of Radiology at Holy Name Hospital, is one of a handful of physicians experienced in doing this procedure.

"For years, the principal treatment for severe uterine fibroids was a hysterectomy, in which the whole uterus is removed," says Dr. Vogel. "But for women in their reproductive years, this was not an option for them."

The option available now at Holy Name Hospital for many of these women is fibroid embolization, a noted Dr. Vogel. Embolization, a safe, non-surgical procedure, is usually performed on an outpatient basis under "conscious sedation," where the patient is sedated but awake. The procedure takes approximately one hour to complete.

According to Dr. Vogel, during this minimally invasive procedure, a

catheter is inserted into an artery in the groin. With X-ray guidance, the catheter is directed into the two arteries that supply the uterus and the fibroids with blood. Small synthetic particles are injected through the catheter into the arteries to cut off blood flow to the fibroids. This procedure is designed to deny the fibroids the blood supply they need for growth and nourishment. This in turn causes the pain, bloating and bleeding to abate.

Dr. Vogel, former chief of Angiography and Interventional Radiology at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, started doing this procedure over one and one half years ago. "I've treated more than 100 patients for serious fibroid disease with embolization and I am very pleased with the results of each case," he noted.

Women who have sought help but wanted to avoid surgery for uterine fibroids now have this less extreme option available. A telephone-screening interview is available at no charge for those who want to know if they are a candidate for this procedure. A physician referral is not necessary. Please call the Van Houten Women's Outpatient Center at Holy Name Hospital at (201) 227-6200 for your free screening, or for more information.

Spend settlement dollars on tobacco control programs

Money can help reduce smoking; Pay for uninsured health care

LAWRENCEVILLE — An anti-tobacco backlash continues among New Jersey residents, as a strong majority call for using tobacco settlement proceeds for comprehensive control, prevention and treatment programs. In a recent Eagleton Public Opinion Poll, 90 percent of New Jerseyans stated that a portion of the settlement should be used for funding tobacco-control programs, with seven in ten respondents (and 63 percent of smokers) favoring allocation of at least 25 percent of the monies. The poll results closely mirror those of a poll conducted last fall before the formation of the settlement. In addition, 88 percent said that a portion of the settlement could pay for uninsured health care.

"Following the strong public support for the 1997 tobacco tax increase, New Jerseyans recognize that this is an ideal opportunity to redress the problems of tobacco through settlement funds," said Larry Downs, Director, New Jersey Breaths. Smoking is our number one public health issue. What better use of money from the tobacco industry is to treat those who are already sick from smoking, getting current smokers to quit, and keeping others—especially children—from starting?"

In the six months that have passed since the settlement was signed, tobacco has caused the deaths of nearly 6,500 New Jerseyans, and cost hundreds of millions of dollars in medical treatment," continued Downs. "At the same time, an additional 15,500 New Jersey children have started smoking. Obviously, the state needs to have a plan in place for when the first installments are made."

When asked about one element of tobacco control—teen smoking—more than 80 percent of both smokers and nonsmokers favored the use of tobacco settlement dollars. About half of the respondents said that at least 50 percent of the total proceeds should be used to fund smoking reduction efforts. In addition, by a 52 percent to a 30 percent margin, respondents said they are more likely to vote for a candidate who sup-

ports the 25 percent dedication of the funds versus a candidate who supports dedication of a smaller amount.

In one interesting result, 70 percent of respondents believe that an independent, extra-governmental board of experts should manage tobacco control funds provided by the settlement. This could be seen as a way to minimize interference by tobacco interests.

"New Jersey currently spends less than \$0.35 per capita, or about \$3 million annually, on tobacco control efforts," said Downs. "By contrast, the tobacco industry spends \$150 million each year to promote tobacco use in our state alone. The 25 percent figure favored by respondents (approx. \$75 million in first settlement year, equating slightly more than \$10 per capita) seems to be a reasonable amount for tobacco control to be truly effective."

"California and Massachusetts invested in comprehensive tobacco control programs and drastically reduced tobacco use," said Downs. "Even Mississippi is currently carving more than \$11 per capita to cut its smoking rates. We're already behind many other states."

In November 1998, New Jersey Breaths presented its comprehensive, six-element tobacco control plan. Using funding and program recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the plan outlined specific elements and per capita expenditures necessary to substantially reduce tobacco consumption. Early this year, the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services introduced a similar plan, which was later adopted by Governor Whitman in her 1999 budget recommendation.

"Tobacco directly and indirectly takes money out of every New Jersey's pocket in many ways, including Medicaid, higher health-care premiums, and other labor costs," continued Downs. "The way to get even with the tobacco companies is by using their own money to reduce the number of smokers. The public knows that's true, and it's time for our legislators to realize that."

A sign of things to come



New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman recently signed the groundbreaking "Arthritis Quality of Life Initiative Act". The legislation includes funding for two regionally based pilot arthritis program centers. Flanking Gov. Whitman and showing support for the bill from the Arthritis Foundation, New Jersey Chapter are (left to right) Dr. William Darrow of Basking Ridge, chairman; Bobby Thomson of the "Shot heard round the world" fame, the Chapter's first Ambassador; and Dennis Hirschfelder, president. This legislation will directly impact 1.3 million New Jersey residents who have arthritis.

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Shakespeare Classic comes to Harlem



Adam Wade plays the role of Duncan in Shakespeare's Classic Macbeth.

NEW YORK — A classic act, Macbeth returns to Harlem after 63 years. Not since Orson Wells directed this production of power run amuck by William Shakespeare in 1936, has it graced the uptown stages in New York City.

Founded in 1999, The Classical Theatre of Harlem will proudly present the first professional production of Macbeth starting July 9, at the Harlem School of the Arts courtyard located at 645 St. Nicholas Ave at 141st Street.

Dedicated to returning classic theater to Harlem, the Classical Theater in its adaptation of this play transcends the barrier of Old English language through rhythm, dance, masks, and puppetry which resonates a new vigorous

"...this play transcends the barrier of Old English language through rhythm, dance, masks, and puppetry which resonates a new vigorous and physical approach to the telling of this tragedy."

and physical approach to the telling of this tragedy Adam Wade, who was the first African American to host a major network game show - CBS' Musical Chairs, steps into the role of Duncan.

With over forty years of theater and acting accomplishments, Wade's most notable comedic role came on the set of Sanford and Son, What's Happening, The Jefferson's and Goodtimes. He's also well known from the soaps Another World and As the World Turns and as Adam 12's Sheriff Lobo.

Wade is a true professional and his brilliant portrayal of Duncan should not be missed. His theatrical credits include: Hallelujah Baby with Diana Sands; Some Time Next Year with Della Reese; Driving Miss Daisy, Guys and Dolls; My Sister My Sister; and Shades of Harlem.

CTH proudly proclaims the employment of thirty-two actors, nine musicians, eight production staff members and six front of the house staff members.

Welcome to the 'Wild Wild West'

Blazing movie star Will Smith and director Barry Sonnenfeld are one of today's most successful motion-picture pairings. Now they've joined forces again after their summer blockbuster, "Men in Black," to take audiences on a thrilling ride in Warner Bros. "Wild Wild West," a fast-paced adventure sparkling with comedy, action and fantasy.

Academy Award honorees Kevin Kline and Kenneth Branagh, as well as the gifted and glamorous Salma Hayek, join Smith in starring roles in a retro epic that mixes witty science fiction with hip-hop savoir-faire, all set against a Western background.

Jon Peters, whose previous achievements include "Batman" and the Oscar-winning "Rain Man," produces "Wild Wild West" with Barry Sonnenfeld.

Special government agent James West (Smith), long on charm and wit, and special government agent Artemus Gordon (Kline), a master of disguises and a brilliant inventor of gadgets large and small, are each sent to track down the diabolical genius Dr. Arliss Loveless (Branagh).

Loveless is plotting to assassinate the President of the United States with the aid of his monstrously huge walking weapon-transport vehicle called The Tarantula. West and Gordon begin as competitors but soon pool their talents to become a wily team of operatives who trust each other... most of the time.

The beautiful and mysterious entertainer Rita Escobar (Hayek) complicates matters for the duo as she insinuates



Will Smith stars as James West in Warner Bros. "Wild Wild West," a fast-paced adventure sparkling with comedy, action, and fantasy.

herself into their plans to capture Loveless.

And Loveless has his own deadly team of lovely distractions—Miss East (Bai Ling), Amazonia (Frederique Vander Wal), Munitia (Musetta Vander) and Miss Lippensreider (Sofia Eng)—whose unique attributes each pose a threat to the lives of West and Gordon.

Noted character actor Ted Levine also stars as General "Bloodbath" McGrath, an associate of Loveless who attempts to thwart West, Gordon and Rita Escobar. And M. Emmet

Walsh, whose presence has enlivened numerous films including the Coen brothers' "Blood Simple" (which was Barry Sonnenfeld's debut as a feature cinematographer), appears as the conductor of The Wanderer, West's and Gordon's luxurious, gadget-filled railroad train.

Romance, humor, fantastic weapons and devices and hair-raising confrontations and escapes enliven their adventures as West and Gordon daringly outwit their enemies.

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Illustration by India Bailey

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Billboard

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

NEWARK — The Newark Black Film Festival kicks off at the Newark Museum with an evening of film maker Gordon Parks and the showing of his 1969 film "The Learning Tree" 7 p.m. (973) 596-8650.

MONTCLAIR — The Summitum Theater, Inc. presents David Mamet's play "The Old Neighborhood" Weiss Arts Center 8 p.m. (973) 259-0578.

NEW YORK — Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. presents The Gerald Caselli Orchestra, part of Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing. Call (212) 875-5546 for time and information.

THURSDAY, JULY 1

NEW YORK — The Metropolitan Museum presents an art exhibit featuring the work Barbara Chase-Riboud. 10 a.m. (212) 570-3551.

BROOKLYN, NY — Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) presents a film retrospective of legendary director Spike Lee through July 25. Call (718) 636-4111 for time and information.

FRIDAY, JULY 2

NEW YORK — The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. presents R&B singers Linda Clifford and Carol Douglas, part of Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing. Call (212) 875-5500 for time and information.

BLOOMFIELD — Chase Manhattan Bank & AT&T presents the "Celestial Sounds" music for the millennium performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. The concert takes place at Brookside Park, part of Essex County Park System's Free Summer Park System. 7:30 p.m. (973) 268-3500.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

NEW YORK — The Shonberg Center for Research in Black Culture presents an exhibit of black New York photographers. Call (212) 451-5200 for time and information.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Rutgers Arts Center presents the Rutgers Festival Orchestra at the Nicholas Music Center. 8 p.m. (732) 932-7513.

MONDAY, JULY 5

NEW YORK — The History Channel will present a discussion on Spike Lee's film "Summer of Sam" 8 p.m. Check local cable listings for the channel in your area.

Ellison's unfinished legacy

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

An American literary treasure, Ralph Ellison's voice is so spiritually vibrant in his second novel, *Juneteenth*, until seemingly you're transported to a time and place valid in testimony that's significantly tied to the past.

Through flashbacks, Ellison weaves this story with a narrative superbly enhanced by authentic dialogue that tells the tale of two men.

Senator Adam Sunrider, once upon a time known as Bliss, who because of the white color of his skin moves discriminately from a black to

white society, while Hickman, the black Baptist preacher who reared him holds Sunrider accountable to the world he grew up in.

Ellison, who opened America's eyes with his first novel, *Invisible Man*, never completed *Juneteenth*, a forty-year work in progress, before his death in 1994.

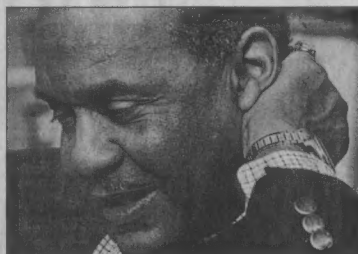
The novel, which takes its title from the date in 1865, when slaves in Texas were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, (which granted their freedom), was completed by his literary executor, John F. Callahan, on the request of Ellison's wife Fannie.

"To use an architectural

metaphor, this was the true center of Ellison's great unfinished house of fiction," says Callahan. "And although he did not complete the wings of the edifice, their absence does not significantly mar the organic unity of the book we do have *Juneteenth*."

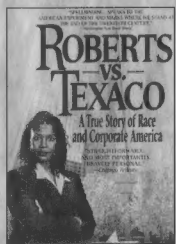
The 1865 event is significant to Bliss, who remembers it fondly in a flashback as the date of a revival meeting where he becomes enamored by a black woman he romances.

The story shifts from Washington, D. C. to Georgia, Alabama and to Oklahoma, where Ellison was born in 1914, until these two men arrive at their final destination.



Ralph Ellison's newly released book, "Juneteenth" has stirred up some controversy.

From the bookshelf of African-American authors



City News' African-American library corner highlights the above books for great summer reading. Ralph Ellison's *Juneteenth* published by Random House, Yvonne Taylor's *I Was Born a Slave*, released by Lawrence Hill Books, *Waiting in Vain* by Colin Channer, Roberts vs. *Texaco* by Bart-Elle Roberts, and *Don't Give It Away!* by Iyanla Vanzant.

A Whirlwind of Self-Reflection and Self-Reflection on Being Black



Africa counts

CHICAGO — Africa Counts: Number and Pattern in African Cultures by Claudia Zaslavsky (Lawrence Hill Books, \$16.95), is a classic work on the history and practice of mathematics throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

The book shows that math was prominent in African life as a fact, that turn-of-the-century white anthropologists frequently overlooked and included counting, geometry, calendar making, as well as some innovative, uniquely African uses of numbers.

Africa Counts also illustrates the role math thinking played in the tribal traditions, spiritual beliefs, trading practices, arts and crafts, architecture, and games of the region.

This third edition covers 25 years of new research and assesses the impact of ethnomathematics and the teaching of math worldwide.

Africa Counts is about the practical uses of math and its application in everyday lives of African peoples. It covers numbers systems; counting in words and in gestures; and measuring time, distance, weight and other quantities.

At the same time, it shows how the math traditions of various tribes related to their trade, religious, social, scientific, and other practices.

Throughout the continent mathematics was never

employed strictly for business. Africa Counts highlights numerous math-based games Mancala, the most famous of these games, has been played for centuries, according to Africa Counts, "by kings and cowards."

It is the world's oldest game and has dozens of versions, all of which require complex mathematical thinking.

Africa Counts also examines the importance of geometry in traditional architecture and art. It shows that circular houses, once common all over the continent, were not only the most economical structures to build but also encompassed the greatest area within a given perimeter.

The book contains numerous examples of the use of pattern in African art, including embroidery, weaving, pottery, jewelry, and carved masks all of which influenced the Western tradition of Cubism. It describes the contributions of African women to mathematical thinking.

Africa Counts is an invaluable resource for those interested in African cultures, history, and multiculturalism, as well as anyone curious about the evolution of math and how it is taught.

Claudia Zaslavsky is the author of Math Games and Activities from Around the World and other books.

WILL SMITH

"JAMES WEST"

KEVIN KLINE

"ARTEMUS GORDON"

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS

A PETERS ENTERTAINMENT / SONNENFELD-JOSEPHSON PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH TOMMAN SIMON LAMASTERS PRODUCTIONS

A BARRY SONNENFELD FILM WILL SMITH KEVIN KLINE KENNETH BRANAGH SALMA HAYEK "WILD WILD WEST" TED LEVINE

CAST: CRAMER PLAZA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: BOB TOMMAN, JR. JOEL SIMON KIM LAMASTERS TRACY GLASER BARRY JOSEPHSON

EDITED BY: JIM THOMAS & JOHN THOMAS

PRODUCED BY: JIM PETERS AND BARRY SONNENFELD DIRECTED BY BARRY SONNENFELD

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JOHN LEGUIZAMO

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MIRA SORVINO

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TOUCHSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS A 40 ACRES AND A MULE FILMWORKS PRODUCTION

SPIKE LEE "SUMMER OF SAM" JOHN LEGUIZAMO ADRIEN BRODY MIRA SORVINO

JENNIFER ESPOSITO ANTHONY LA PAGLIA RUTH E CARTER ALEX STEYERMARK

PRODUCED BY: TERENCE BLANCHARD EDITED BY: BARRY ALEXANDER BROWN PRODUCED BY: THERESA DEPREZ

CAST: ELLEN KURAS MICHAEL IMPERIOLO JERI CARROLL COLICCHIO

PRODUCED BY: VICTOR COLICCHIO MICHAEL IMPERIOLO AND SPIKE LEE

CAST: JOHN KLINE AND SPIKE LEE

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